

Global Culture

Gentleness in the Age of Outrage

Proverbs 15:1

September 3, 2023

Introduction: Are you a thermometer or a thermostat? Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once wrote that for early Christians "the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society." We're struggling today with race. Are we struggling in ways that just reflect society or that reflect Jesus and the unique promise of his good news to transform society through followers like you? "Global Culture" is one of our five values at UPC. It's time not just to take the temperature but to flip a switch.

Prayer: Father, we are grateful for the reminder of the importance of gentleness in the midst of the rage of today. Amen.

Read: Proverbs 15:1.

Review: Did the centurion's statement help your own faith?

Discussion:

1. Have you had the experience of your own gentle answer or another's? Explain.

2. What does "turns away" mean in this text?

3. What is the difference between a gentle "answer" and a harsh "word"?

4. How can you avoid a harsh word?

5. Is silence a part of both?

Application: Practice gentle answers this week when confronted with anger/outrage.

Prayer: Father, this is such a remarkable proverb. Thank you. Amen.