

In God's image

Part 3

2 Timothy 2:20-26

²⁰In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. ²¹Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

²²Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. ²³Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. ²⁴And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. ²⁵Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

1. After the process of refining metal, shaping on the anvil, what's is next in the process?
2. What does it mean "some for special, some for common use"? What is this metaphor saying and what does it look like in reality? Verse 20
3. What is the work we need to do to be instruments for noble purposes? Verse 21
4. What are we to flee from and pursue? Verses 22
5. What would constitute a foolish argument, and what is an argument worth having? Verses 23-24
6. How should we go about arguing? Does our society and church have a culture of healthy disagreement? Verse 25
7. What does God want from his "tool" refined and honed? What is our responsibility in this process?