Defending ourselves to death

Christians are required to be in agreement with other Christians - 1 Cor 1:10 - I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that **all of you agree with one another** SO THAT THERE MAY BE NO DIVISIONS AMONG YOU and that you may be **perfectly united in mind and thought**.

Christians are to be on the same page in everything that we do and say - Phil 2:1-2 - If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by **being like-minded**, having the same love, **being one in spirit and purpose**.

This unity must be held together by brotherly love - Rom 12:10  **Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.** Honor one another above yourselves.

The main thing that destroys this is “our” CONFIDENCE in “our” beliefs without seeing “our” flaws - Luke 18:9-14 - 9 To some who were **confident of their own righteousness** and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The **Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself:** 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men — robbers, evildoers, adulterers — or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'" 14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For **everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.**"

Like feelings, being passionate is fine as long as it’s within the boundaries of God

Passion must be based on truth - Rom 10:1-2 - Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. 2 For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge.

It must be based on GOOD and it must be consistent - Gal 4:17-19 - 17 Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you [from us], so that you may be zealous for them. 18 **It is fine to be zealous, PROVIDED THE PURPOSE IS GOOD, AND TO BE SO ALWAYS** and not just when I am with you.

*If the same thing happened in different circumstances would you feel the same way?

Christians have a responsibility to be Heavenly focused all the time - Col 3:2-4-2  Set your minds on things above, **not on earthly things**. 3 For you died, and **your life is now hidden with Christ in God**. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

We are to avoid “ungodly things” and focus on being Godly - 1 Tim 4:7-8 - 7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. 8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

UnGodly communication corrupts those who participate in it - 2 Tim 2:16- **Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.**

We MUST be careful how we speak around unbelievers - Col 4:5-6 - 5 **BE WISE IN THE WAY YOU ACT TOWARD OUTSIDERS;** make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation **be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.**

How should Christians deal with all topics?

We must get self out the way and consider others - Phil 2:3-4 - 3 **Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit,** but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**Don’t just avoid uncomfortable conversation, test and avoid only evil conversation** - 1 Thess 5:21-22 - 21 **Test everything.** **Hold on to the good**. 22 **Avoid every kind of evil.**

Have these conversation using Spiritual attributes - Col 3:12-14 - 12 Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.** 13 **Bear with each other** and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.