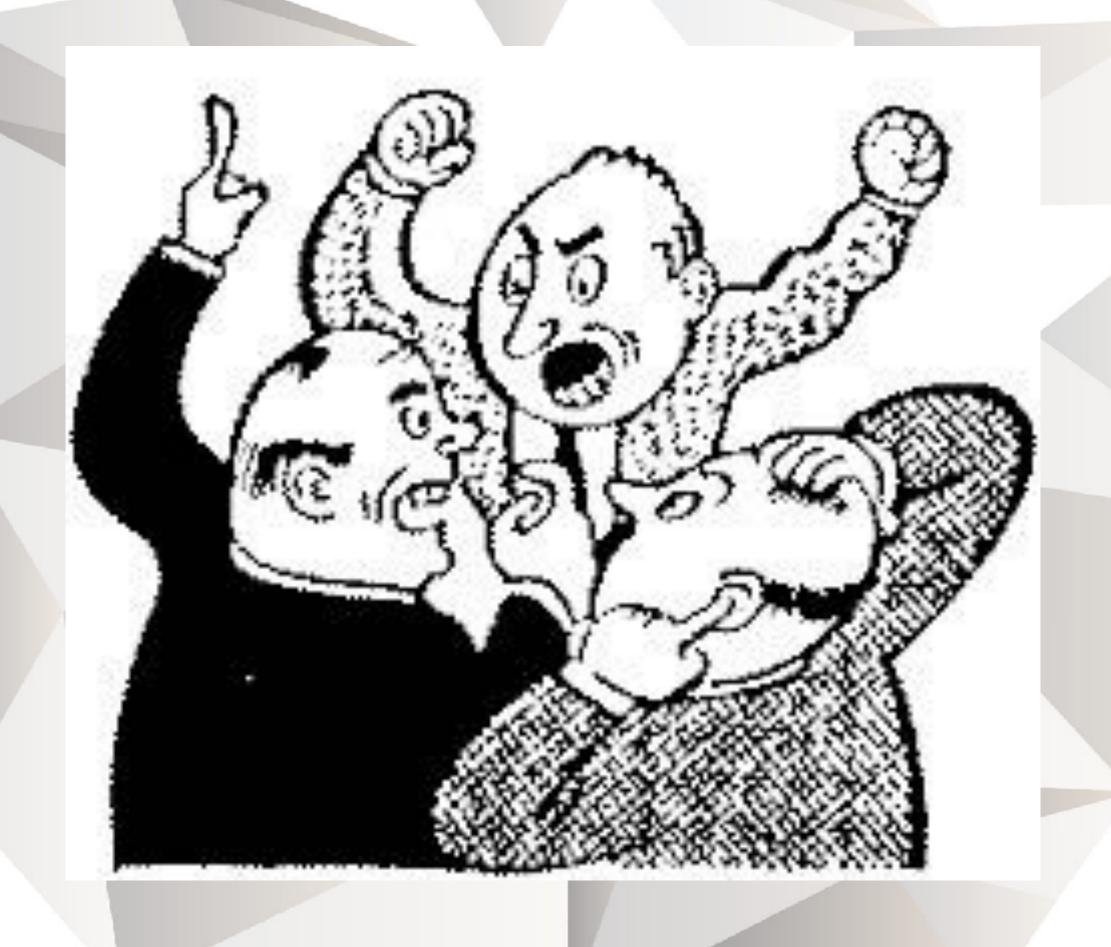
Lighten Your Load 9

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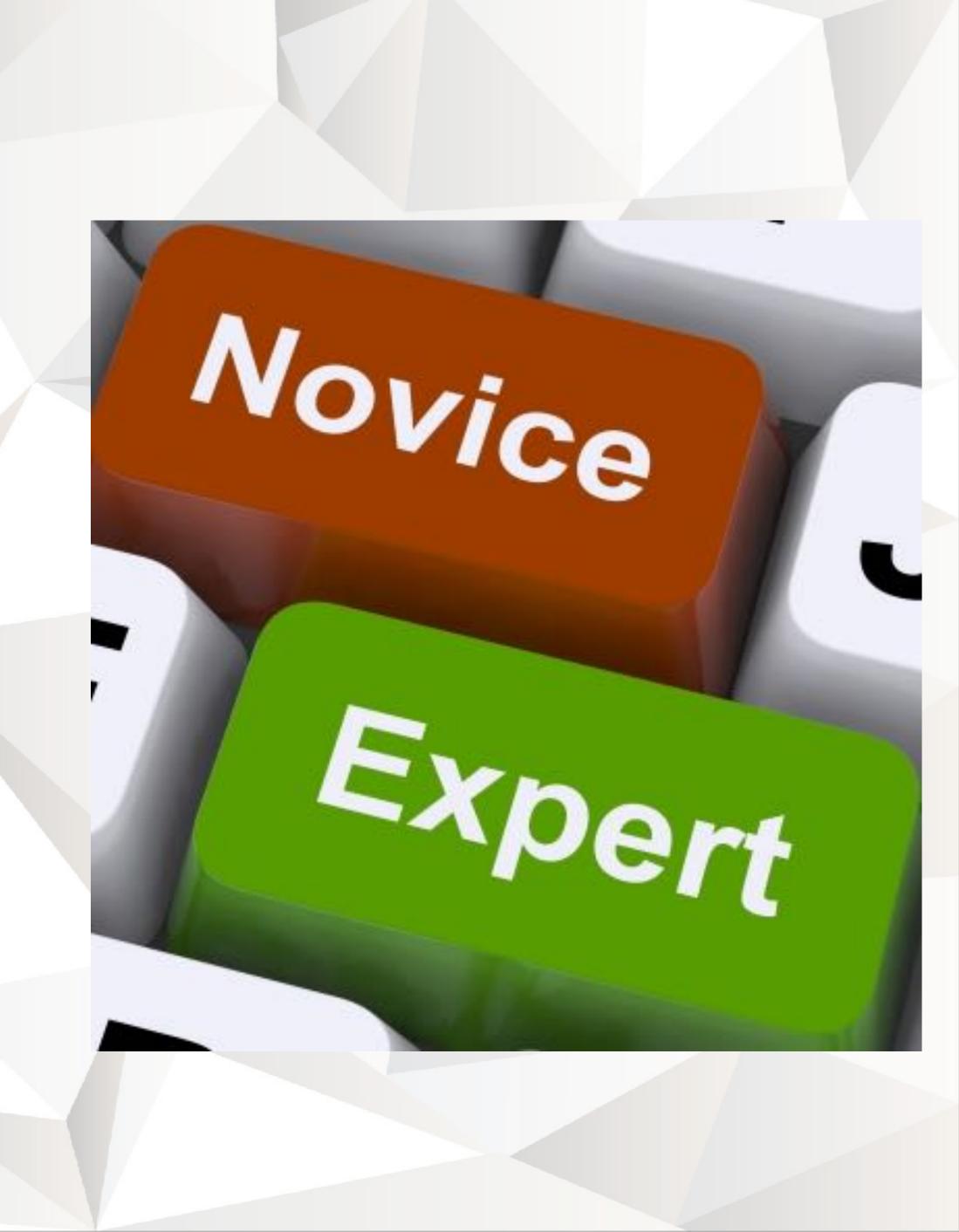
## variance verēens

 the state or fact of disagreeing or quarreling

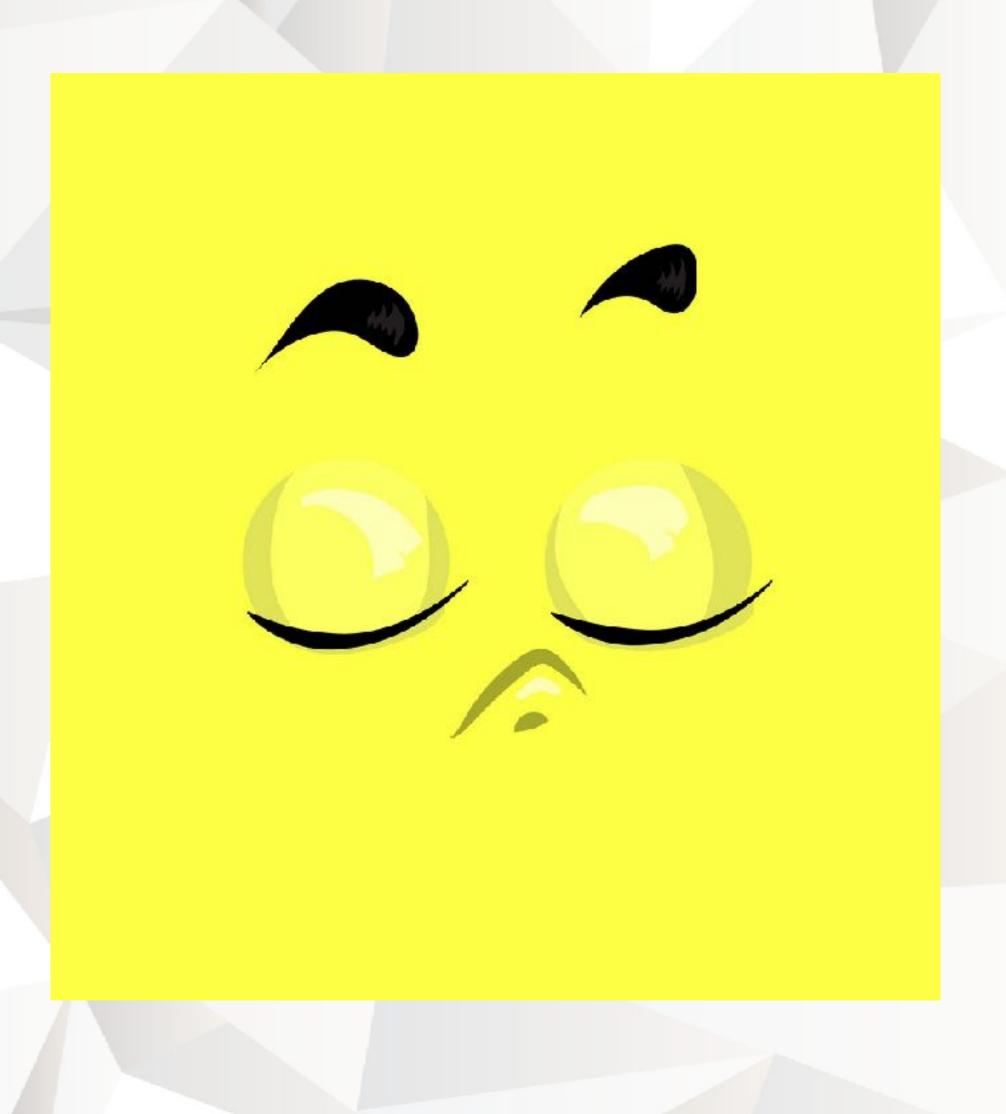
- So many today are weighed down by the spirit of variance. Whether they are living in disagreement of the Word or refusing wise counsel, they are making their load heavier. Prov. 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.
- Having a Berean spirit and having a pessimistic spirit are two different things. We should all be able to receive the Word from trusted sources and not have a contrary disposition. Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.
- Quarrelsome people usually have internal trust issues so they doubt everything. This behavior leads to a life of arrogance and pride that will prevent a person from being corrected and admonished. *Prov.* 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.



- At one point, we all believed one thing and later learned that it may not have been true. As we grow in wisdom, we find that our beliefs and mindsets mature as we outgrow certain seasons of our lives. 1Cor. 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.
- This is why teachers of the Word should be seasoned. But if we are quarrelsome, then we will try to voice our youthful beliefs and totally disregard the fact that elders in the faith know more than those that are under them. 1Tim. 3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.
- A novice that questions elders and maintains a disposition of variance inhibits their own growth.
   When we cannot be corrected without attempting to find fault in those that correct us, then we are scorners. Prov. 9:8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.



- Our upbringing usually dictates our learning posture.
  When we are taught authority in a structured
  household, then we can usually receive what is being
  taught and can apply it with ease. Prov. 22:6 Train up
  a child in the way he should go: and when he is old,
  he will not depart from it.
- When we grow up with dominant mothers, weak or absent fathers, or in traumatic experiences, this can manifest as trust issues. This causes us to distrust many of those that God put in our lives to help us. Mark 3:27 No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.
- A person that does not get healed from distrust will make their load heavy because they cannot confide or trust in a God-given authority. They live in their own head and eventually implode for the lack of good quality leadership. Eccl. 10:3 Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool.



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As long as there is a church, there will be leaders of the church. Unfortunately, there are corrupt leaders, teachers, and members in churches, but we must pray to God to show us the motives and hearts of those that we select to lead us. The Bible said you will know them by their fruit. If leadership is lead or manipulated by a woman, surrounded by scandal, submitted to wayward organizations, or compromising, then their fruit is speaking to you! God will always protect us, if we trust in Him for guidance. But we still have to trust who we have chosen to lead us. If a person distrusts the leaders in the church they attend, then variance will eventually produce discord and many will be harmed. We must remember that if we chose to plant ourselves in a church, that it was OUR choice.

There are no perfect leaders and all men are subject to error. It takes maturity and growth to truly trust people despite their flaws. If we do not trust in the leadership of our church or continually question them, then we should leave. It's not proper to question the leadership if we disagree with what is being taught. Questioning will not change anything because the position of leadership and the decision you made to be there are in conflict with one another. If you have planted yourself there then you are in the posture of receiving and not leading; therefore, you must either find another fellowship that you are in agreement with wholeheartedly or stay there, stay silent, and do the whole "eat the meat and spit out the bones" thing (a life of constant spitting?) Time is a great teacher and in many cases, it will reveal that what you felt was not so or a misunderstanding based on ignorance. But in the cases of obvious biblical contradictions and compromise, that's a no brainer. When the church cannot provide sound doctrinal teaching then what good is it to you? If there is compromise or no biblical standard upheld, then how can you expect the leader to lead you or your family righteously?

Heb. 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Heb. 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Heb. 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Heb. 13:18 Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.