

Now there is a fourth purpose of our lives which we should mention.

d. To stand for God's truth. And there is much in Scripture about how we should stand against the wiles of the devil, we should stand against those who deny the Word of God, we should stand for God's truth. He says those who deny the deity of Christ do not receive them into your house, neither bid them God-speed. We should stand for God's truth and this is very vital. It is something which some people tend to completely forget in their emphasis on others ^{Word} aspects of the work. We need to give it a proper stress, we need often to think of it particularly in these days when there is so much denial of God's Word; when there is so much tearing down the faith of God's people. We need to think of it, but we should remember that it is subsidiary to the other truths, to the other purposes. We stand for God's truth not because the fact that I say I believe this is true, I deny any attacks upon it, I stand for it is itself an end. It is a means of preventing others from being kept from the knowledge of the Word. It is a means of leading others to look to the truth of God and be saved. It is a means of hindering those who would hold back the sanctification of God's people by presenting before them temptations to be utterly worldly and anti-Christian in their attitudes or to bring them into a situation where the Communists can control and destroy the preaching of the Word of God. It is an important thing for us to stand for and to remember and to do. it is vital. but it is subsidiary. And if we make it the end all and be all we are then handling it in a wrong way. It is subsidiary. There was a fine book written not long ago in which the man said, We do not preach separation. And he has been strongly criticised for this but the statement was absolutely true. Separation is a means to an end. It is a means to helping in our growth in grace. It is a means to helping to have others reached for the gospel. It is means to helping others grow in grace. It is not an end in itself, but it is a means, it is for the purpose of helping in the other three other vital aspects. We separate ourselves from apostate and/unbelievers not because there is virtue in being separate from them but because we can help in the work of tearing down the gospel by our cooperation with them and we must not do that.