Provocations: Good and Bad
Heb. 10:24

Introduction:

A. **Provoke**: 1. to excite to some action or feeling. 2. to anger; irritate. 3. to stir up (action or feeling) 4. to call forth, evoke. *(Webster’s New World Dictionary Of The American Language)*

B. Good and bad provocations.
   1. Good (2 Cor. 9:2).
   2. Bad. (Gal. 5:26).

C. We need to study some areas where we should and should not provoke others.

Discussion:

I. **Provoking Unto Jealousy. (Rom. 11:14)**
   A. Such a thing as *godly* jealousy (2 Cor. 11:2)
   B. Paul tried to stir Jews to jealousy (in a good sense) of Gentiles' blessings. (Rom. 11:11-14).
      1. So that they would want same blessings and go for them.
      2. We need to stir up others to this kind of godly jealousy.
   C. We need to be provoked to jealousy for the spiritual welfare of brethren (2 Cor. 11:1-5).
      1. Jealousy guard against corruption from simplicity of gospel. (v. 3)
         a. Such corrupt faith.
         b. Such wolves in sheep's clothing catch and scatter sheep. (Mt. 7:15; John 10:12)
            (1) Caught by deception of false doctrine.
            (2) Scattered by tactics of factious men. (cf. Tit. 3:10)
      3. Jealousy guard own influence among brethren for good. (vv. 5-15)

II. **Provoking Unto Love (Heb. 10:24)**
   A. Verse 24 stands in contrast to verse 25.
      1. "Provoking unto love and good works" (v. 24) equals "exhorting one another" (v. 25).
      2. Assembling together furnishes occasion for provoking and admonishing.
         a. Most churches do this at least 3 times a week.
         b. Need to use these times effectively.
   B. This love is "agape" or a love of deep commitment.
      1. For the Lord. (1 John 5:3).
      2. For Christians. (1 John 5:2).
      3. For enemies. (Matt. 5:43-48).
      4. Love best seen by its actions. (1 Cor. 13:4-7).
      5. Can even "love" those don't particularity like - differs from "philo" love.

III. **Provoking Unto Good Works. (Heb. 10:24)**
   A. Good works a reason for being a Christian. (Eph. 2:8-10).
   B. Good works are scriptural works. (2 Tim. 3:16,17).
   C. Good works sometimes depend of ability and opportunity. (Gal. 6:10).

IV. **Provoking Unto Anger/Wrath. (Eph. 6:1; Col. 2:21)**
   A. Warning against abusive parents.
   B. Contrasted to training (nurture) and admonition OF THE LORD.
2. **Nouthesia** - mild rebuke or warning. (Cf. Tit. 3:10; 1 Cor. 10:11).

C. Not provoking by unreasonable and abusive treatment, but rather discipline and rebuke with firmness yet with love training them in the Lord.

D. Neither excessive (abusive) discipline nor weak and painless discipline.

Conclusion:

A. Let us provoke others to do good.

B. Let us not provoke anyone to do evil.

C. Could I provoke you to obey be saved today?