“Provoking One Another”
Gal. 5:26

Introduction:
A. Should Christians provoke one another?
   1. If the text were the only verse on the subject, answer would be “no, never!”
   2. However there are good provocations as well as bad. (Heb. 10:24).
   3. Unfortunately, too much bad and not enough good.
B. We need to study some areas where we should be provoking one another.

Discussion:
I. Provoking Unto Jealousy. (Rom. 11:14)
   A. Such a thing as godly jealousy (2 Cor. 11:2)
   B. Paul tried to provoke Jews to jealousy of Gentiles' blessings in Christ. (Rom. 11:11-14).
      1. So that they would want to emulate them.
      2. We need to stir up all those out of Christ 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 our 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).
   D. Our zeal for good works will provoke others (2 Cor. 9:1-2)

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?