



"And now I am no more in the world,
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®
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MAKING TROUBLE . . .

The riots in Baltimore have captured the nation's attention. The civil unrest in that city was sparked by the death of Freddie Gray, a black man who died of a spinal injury after having been in police custody. At its core, the issue is one of truth. Did the death of Freddie Gray really result from injuries while in custody? Are the authorities telling the truth about their investigation? Is the unrest mainly at the instigation of out-of-towners who, as some claim, are merely taking advantage of a situation, not caring about the truth?

. . . EVEN IN THE CHURCH!

Those working for truth sometimes seem to be in the minority. Rabble-rousers often appear to exercise more control over events than those who labor to seek truth in difficult situations (compare Acts 21:27-36). This happens even in the church, and it is not a new problem, as our lesson text of 3 John reveals.

1. How do we distinguish between those who are working for the truth and those working against it in situations of civil unrest such as the one in Baltimore?
2. How do we distinguish between those who are working for the truth and those working against it in the church?
3. How do others see you working for the truth, whether inside or outside the church?
4. How should a church handle a situation where a member shows disregard for the truth?
5. How did you respond to the challenge of a situation where you were tempted to disregard the truth?
6. What does Acts 20:30 add to today's study from 3 John, if anything?

—Charles R. Boatman

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