

REASON

To reason is to think. Reasoning over a matter or decision, results in a basis or justification for the decision and action. “Reason” is both a verb (to think about it) and a noun (a basis or justification).

From the Book of Isaiah,

”Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord. Though your sins be like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are as red as crimson, they shall be like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.”

Sometimes you may hear the expression or appeal, “Let’s be reasonable...” Such an expression is to beseech another to think and consider what is practical, logical, and mutually-acceptable or something of that kind. To be reasonable is to consider everyone or what is best for everyone; to not be reasonable is usually to be inconsiderate of others and to essentially demand or expect one’s own will or favor in the matter at hand. Consider the following quote from one who was against slavery. William Lloyd

Garrison describes: “reason” as the effective response to those who are reasonable; a plea or appeal to those who are humane (or compassionate); and to tyrants, no consideration or mercy. If you don’t know, a tyrant is someone who governs with oppression or brutality; one who uses power or authority harshly without consideration of attention to the needs and desires of others – unreasonable to put it mildly.

With reasonable men I will reason; with humane men I will plea; but to tyrants I will give no quarter, nor waste arguments where they will certainly be lost.

- William Lloyd Garrison, US abolitionist & editor (1805 - 1879)

The ability and desire to reason is an indication of one’s general position: those who will not reason are bigots; those who cannot are fools; and those who dare not, are slaves. A “bigot” is one who has no tolerance or willingness to consider the opinions, desires or

needs of others – they are entirely consumed and controlled by their own prejudices and opinions. A “fool” is one who lacks the ability to reason, to think, or to have good judgment; and a slave is one who is totally subservient to another, lacking any right or freedom to reason, to be heard, and to have their desires addressed, considered and granted in some degree.

He who will not reason is a bigot; he who cannot is a fool; and he who dares not is a slave.

- Sir William Drummond

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