

Acts 18:6

And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

- (:6) "OPPOSED THEMSELVES AND BLASPHEMED"
"OPPOSED THEMSELVES" (Pres. Mid. Ptc. [antitassomai] = a military term = to range in battle against; to array against as in battle; to oppose or resist one's self; to be set against one's self)
"BLASPHEMED" (Pres. Act. Ptc. [blasphemew] = to speak evil against, to slander, to insult)

Q: HOW DOES SELF OPPOSITION WORK?

A: It is found in the terminology itself!

English, OPPOSE = to set one thing up against another; to place in the way, to set one's self up against something - opposing a matter calls for deliberation and serious reasons for and against - it is a thinking term and a voluntary act - normally, it means to set one's self against another, but here the "other" is one's self - it is therefore A BATTLE AGAINST THEMSELVES!

- George Crabb, Crabb's Synonymes (1882), pg.218:
"The most laudable use to which knowledge can be converted is to combat error wherever it presents itself; but there are too many, particularly in the present day, who employ the little pittance of knowledge which they have collected to no better purpose than to oppose everything that is good, and excite the same spirit of opposition in others."

- A. OPPOSING ONES SELF is to pursue a course of action in ones own mind, in which the raising of questions and objections occurs THAT ARE SOLELY DESIGNED TO DEFLECT ANY NEED TO DEAL ANY MORE WITH THE UNPLEASANT SUBJECT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN CONFRONTED WITH!
- B. Now you have the framework in which Romans 3:1-8 is set - now you know why these questions come up - because that is what self opposition amounts to!
- C. Therefore, as the ambassador for Christ you ought to be, if you deal with someone concerning the "gospel of Christ" and you have dealt with those aspects of their responses along the lines of Romans 1:18 - 2:29, and all the persuasion of them has come to its end, and they still have not been "led to repentance", then you can EXPECT them to OPPOSE THEMSELVES AND BLASPHEME, and at this CRITICAL JUNCTURE, if they follow this course, you need to realize that there are 4 steps to it, and when the 4th one is reached, God says, STOP! Your ambassadorship is over!