

5 HALLMARKS OF BIBLICAL CONFRONTATION:

If you're a follower of Jesus and you need to confront someone,
the Bible gives 5 Guiding principles:

(1). Confrontations must be done "gently" and with humility (Gal.6:1-5). Submissive & full of mercy (James 3:17)

WHY? "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Prov. 15:1
"Healthy communicators prefer face to face as its almost always gentler than written confrontations."

(2). Run to tension quickly (Mt 5:23-24; Eph 4:26) – Tension demands attention; Don't fester or allow weeks to go by. **WHY?** Often, our info or assumptions were wrong; thus, we waste energy on unnecessary tension.

"Healthy people are quick to give attention to tension."

(3). Confrontations must be done privately - going to the true source of the problem first before you involve others (Mt. 18:15) – while assuming the best (1 Cor. 13:7).

WHY? Because talking *about* people rather than *to* people (a.k.a. Triangulating) is a form of gossip and politicking that God detests (Prov.6:19). And, none of us like people talking behind our backs in unflattering or untrue ways.

"Healthy people never start a confrontation in a public forum – like social media"

(4). Only after confrontations fail do we talk to or involve a righteous third party (1 Cor 6:1-7; Mt. 18:16) **WHY?** Because when we unnecessarily drag people into our drama, we create "bitter roots" & defilement (Heb.12:15)

"Healthy people avoid triangulation even when it feels scary."

(5). If all else fails, separate yourselves from them (1 Cor 5:11); And if their unrepented sin is "predatory" (which means, it will harm others), then "Go public" with the grievance (Mt. 18:17).

"Healthy people create boundaries and benchmarks after mediation has failed."

WHEN TO CONFRONT: The Three "CP's"

1. Is this a Critical Path: a belief or behavior that could cause major fall-out like a bad marital decision or theological decision.

2. Chronic Problems: You've seen a problem over & over with no change: (For Eg. Contentment issues; problems with authority; etc.) *"It's the little foxes that spoil the vine"* Song of Sol.2:15

3. Close Proximity: *"There are some problems you can live with, when it's your neighbors and friends, that are un-livable with your wife and kids."* (For eg., if your spouse does something illegal that could affect you in a major way.)