

Basic Confrontation Skills:

What does the Bible really say about confrontation? Here are five main hallmarks of confrontation outlined in the Bible.

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. One exception to this might be if you are a teenager. It's always good to involve a responsible adult in complex situations. Also, if the person is abusive, then you probably should be avoiding them, not confronting them.

"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) And again, the exceptions are: (A). If the person has a pattern of abuse then you should avoid them. Or, again (B). If you are a minor (under 18) - it's usually smart to include a safe and responsible adult right away.

"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.)

- When someone else’s sin increasingly **jeopardizes you** it is *increasingly righteous* to address it!