

I HAVE A FRIEND WHO...IS MAKING POOR CHOICES: HOW TO CONFRONT IN A WAY THAT HELPS

Con-front-ation: a [hostile](#) or [argumentative](#) meeting or situation between [opposing](#) parties.

Biblical Confrontation: standing up for the truth; **interceding when someone we care about is on a destructive path**

- When confrontation is **bad**: characterized by anger, toxicity, or aggressiveness
- When confrontation is **good**: characterized by genuine love and concern for the other person

I. Is this even any of my business?

- We're not talking about the small stuff!!

II. What Makes This So Tough?

1) Distorted view of love.

- Some think, "If you love me you have to agree with and support whatever I choose." **WRONG**

2) Distorted view of Christianity.

- Some think, "If you're a Christian you should never confront and just try to be a nice person." **WRONG**

3) Distorted view of what the Bible says.

- Some think that when Jesus talked about "not judging" He meant that everyone can do whatever he/she thinks is ok. **WRONG**

III. Key Passages that Give Insight

[Jesus] "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye." Matthew 7:1-5 (NLT)

*"When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin. But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. I meant that you are **not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges** in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people. It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is **your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning**. God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, 'You must remove the evil person from among you.'" 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 (NLT)*

*"My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, you can be sure that **whoever brings the sinner back from wandering** will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins." James 5:19-20 (NLT)*

IV. Important Distinctions

- Acceptance vs Approval
- Judgmental vs Good judgement
- Tolerance is treating people with dignity and respect, even when we differ and disagree.
- Tolerance is **NOT** approving of unwise decisions or actions.

V. When to Confront a Friend

- When you've prayed about the issue thoroughly and determined it's important
- When you've gotten the log out of your own eye
- When you are humble and your motives are truly to help
- When your friend is in a receptive state, if possible

VI. How to Do It *A Case Study of David and Nathan (2 Samuel 11 & 12)

1) Make sure the **ISSUE** is worth confronting.

*"...But the thing David had done **displeased the Lord**." 2 Samuel 11:27 (NIV)*

2) Make sure **YOU** are the best one to do it.

"The Lord sent Nathan to David." 2 Samuel 12:1 (NIV)

3) Be **DIRECT, HONEST, and KIND** in your approach. (2 Samuel 12:1-7)

*"Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should **gently and humbly** help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself." Galatians 6:1 (NLT)*

4) Realize you may not be able to save them from the **CONSEQUENCES** of their actions. Samuel 12:7-11,14)

5) Assure them of God's **FORGIVENESS** if they turn back to Him.

"Then David confessed to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' Nathan replied, 'Yes, but the Lord has forgiven you, and you won't die for this sin.'" 2 Samuel 12:13