

LEARNING TO HAVE THE HARD CONVERSATIONS

May 7, 2023



Ten Biblical Planks for Building an UNshakable Household

[HARD CONVERSATION!!!] = when we believe others have sinned and that there should be consequences for those sins.

[HARD CONVERSATION???] = when we disagree with someone’s judgment call and believe that the consequences of that call are great but not necessarily sinful.

We need WISDOM to deal with hard conversations. We will either get that wisdom from below or above (James 3:14-18).

DEAL WITH IT . . . RIGHTLY

(walking in Jesus’ steps and following the Bible’s commands)

R = R _____

Jesus: John 3:16-18

Us: Matthew 18:15-16; Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20

What is my motivation for this “hard conversation?” Is it revenge or retaliation? Or is it sincerely pursuing biblical peace?

I = In _____

Jesus: 1 John 4:9-10

Us: 2 Corinthians 2:4; Philippians 2:1-4; 1 Peter 4:8

Is my heart motivated by God’s HESED-AGAPE love? Or am I just seeking my own self-interests?

G = G _____

Jesus: Isaiah 40:10-11, 42:2-4

Us: Matthew 18:15-16; Galatians 6:1

Am I considering the least threatening way possible to have this hard conversation? Or am I stacking this to be a “power play?”

H = H _____

Jesus: Matthew 11:28-30

Us: Matthew 7:3-4

Have I made sure that I have taken “the log out of my own eye first?” Have I repented of the log of insubordination and rebellion against authority? Am I willing to get help if things do not go well?

T = T _____ - _____ - _____

Jesus: John 8:23-24, 31-32

Us: Ephesians 4:15-16

Am I communicating that I have the judgment of charity about their motives, while being specific about the truth of their methods?

L = L _____

Jesus: Matthew 9:4-6; Luke 9:46-48

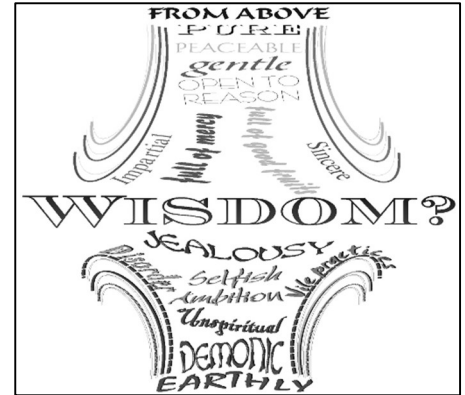
Us: James 1:19-21; Philippians 4:4-6

Am I showing that I am open to reason by actively listening for understanding? Or am I being too “quick to speak?”

Y = Y _____ choices are not _____ choices

Jesus: Revelation 22:12-15

Am I treating them with respect by allowing them to make their own choices, while I take responsibility for my choices.



FIVE JOURNAL THOUGHTS:

We must seek to be approachable enough because of our commitment to deal “rightly,” so that people will risk having the hard conversations with us.

We must care enough to confront the hard conversations. To postpone them indefinitely is to admit that our fears > our love.

HINT: Write down the outcomes and agreed-upon choices after a hard conversation. It will save us from the “that’s not how I remember it” confusions in the future.

Being “open to reason” means being humble enough to admit that we could be wrong, especially in dealing with judgment calls (versus unambiguous Biblical commands & prohibitions).

While it is hard to accept that people would throw away a relationship with us, even while blaming us for their leaving, we must accept their choice is their choice, not ours. We are responsible for our choices.