

**Maintaining Unity:
We are Honest – Speaking the Truth in Love**

Greg Wendschlag May 14, 2017

"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself in love." Gal. 5:6

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" Gal. 6:9-10

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ". Eph. 4:14-15

HOW TO CONFRONT SOMEONE YOU LOVE

1. Check your motives.

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye". Matt 7:3-5

The right motive: **To help, not to hurt.**

"Everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening." 2 Cor. 12:19-20

"Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses." Prov. 27:6

2. Plan your presentation.

*"A wise man's heart **guides his mouth**, and his lips promote instruction." Prov. 16:23*

*"I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and **with many tears**, not to grieve you but to **let you know the depth of my love for you.**" 2 Cor. 2:4*

- Plan when you'll say it.

*"Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is **a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear.**" Prov. 25:12*

- Plan what you'll say.

*"A word **aptly spoken** is like apples of gold in settings of silver." Prov. 25:11*

- Plan how you'll say it.

"Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." Prov. 12:18

Say it tactfully. Pr. 16:21
Say it lovingly. 2 Cor. 6:13
Say it gently. Gal. 6:1

*"I am writing these things **not to shame you, but to warn you** as my beloved children."* 1 Cor. 4:14

3. Give them affirmation.

*"An anxious heart weighs a man down, but **a kind word cheers him up**."* Prov. 12:25

Paul began: *"I always thank God for you..."* 1 Cor. 1:4

Paul ended: *"My love to all of you in Christ Jesus"* 1 Cor. 16:24

***"I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you.** I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds."* 2 Cor. 7:4

4. Risk their rejection.

"Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it-I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while...yet now I am happy...because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us." 2 Cor. 7:8-9

*"An **honest answer** is like a kiss on the lips."* Prov. 24:26

*"He who rebukes a man **will in the end gain more favor** than he who has a flattering tongue."* Prov. 28:23