

IV. HOW MUST CARING CHRISTIANS CONFRONT?

The sincere goal in confrontation is to restore godliness and renew **usefulness** to a broken relationship.

A. We must be **mindful** that our words have power.

A true friend understands the power of words. So confrontation must come from someone who knows and **respects** you, and is willing to stay with you through the process of **reconciliation**. Such words stem from a **heart** that yearns to cultivate a productive and **lasting** relationship. Christians direct their words carefully and keep them to a bare **minimum**, knowing we can sin when we use too many words (Proverbs 29:11).

B. Christians need to be **careful** to speak the truth in love.

Memorize Ephesians 4:2 for the **type** of words to use, and always **T-H-I-N-K** before you confront someone:

- Are all the facts **T** **True**?
- Am I doing it with **H** **Humility**?
- Will my words **I** **Inspire** change and draw people nearer to God?
- Are all or any of my words **N** **Necessary**?
- Is my language **K** **Kind**?

MAKE THIS YOUR DAILY PRAYER

*“Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;
Keep watch over the door of my lips.”* Psalm 141:3

TONGUE PIERCED Mastering Confrontation & Conflict Dr. Chris Gnanakan

INTRODUCTION

A. The words you speak every day will shape your life – positively or negatively. It’s up to each of us to decide whether the words we speak every day will lead to life, success and positive relationships or death, destruction and painful memories.

“For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:”

I Peter 3:10

B. Tongue Pierced will teach you how to choose your words wisely to create the life you want. During this spiritual growth campaign you will learn how the words you speak transform the life you live.

Oct 4	Kick Off Sunday
Oct 11	The Power Of Words
Oct 18	What Your Words Say About You
Oct 25	The Most Important Conversations You’ll Ever Have
Nov 1	The Art Of Cursing
Nov 8	The Language Of Love
Nov 15	Go Ahead – Talk To Yourself
Nov 22	Developing An Attitude Of Gratitude
TODAY	Mastering Confrontation & Conflict
Dec 6	Words That Last

Come and hear these messages and discover how the Bible can help you to be Tongue Pierced!

C. **TEXT:** Proverbs 27:6 (Pew Bible/Pg. 643/Old Testament)

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”
Proverbs 27:6

MASTERING CONFRONTATION & CONFLICT

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ..." Ephesians 4:15

I. WHAT IS CONFRONTATION? IS IT BIBLICAL AND ESSENTIAL?

The word "confrontation" is generally associated with **conflict** and considered to be something negative or even **destructive**. Confrontation is usually related to hostile situations where two or more political parties or strong-willed people are intensely argumentative or strongly **opposing** each another. But this need not be the case.

II. TWO BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF CONFRONTATION:

A. Nathan confronts David (2 Samuel 12:1-14).

- Nathan knew David, his role as king, and his **responsibility** before God.
- Nathan deeply **cared** for David and wanted God's very best for him.
- Nathan's words were **factful**, spoken in truth and love to restore him.

B. Jesus confronts the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-31).

- Jesus clarified the **convictions** of this respectable, religious young man.
- Jesus **loved** this young man enough to confront him with God's truth.
- Jesus allowed the young man to let the truth set him **free**—but did it?

III. WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS CARE TO CONFRONT?

A. It is **needed** for a healthy relationship.

- Confrontation seeks to build up, not tear down the other person. It is caring for a **wavering** believer's moral or spiritual **wellbeing**. It is doing or saying the right words or the right thing to set a relationship right. It is knowing *"how to speak a word in season"* (Isaiah 50:4).
- Confrontation is a mark of maturity, even **Christlikeness**. Spoken **properly** and when necessary, it can be sign of a holy, healthy, and growing relationship with God and others.

B. It can be **helpful** in building strong friendships.

- Some people neither like to be confronted nor care enough to confront someone else, even when they know it is **desperately** needed. There is *"a time to keep silence and a time to speak"* (Ecclesiastes 3:7).
- Words that confront must be corrective, yet **constructive**. *"Like apples of gold in pitchers of silver"* (Proverbs 25:11) They show the great value in a friendship and they can strengthen the relationship *"as iron sharpens iron"* (Proverbs 27:17).