

Courage to Confront

3 Biblical causes for confrontation:

1. Opposes the Gospel.

6

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are

turning to a different gospel—⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you

“
and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.”

9

As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the

one you received, let him be accursed. ...¹¹ For I

would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel.” (Gal.

1:6-9,11)

2

“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat,

3

so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice (Matt. 23: 2-3)

“They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach” (Titus 1:11)

2. Overcome by sin.

“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.” (Gal. 6:1)

3. Sins directly against you.

23

“So if you are about to place your gift on the altar and remember that someone is angry with you,

24

leave your gift there in front of the altar. Make peace with that person, then come back and offer your gift to God.” (Matt. 5:23-24)

Why should I confront?

1. Fulfill the Law of Christ.

17

You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you

18

incur sin because of him. You shall not take

vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.” (Lev. 19:17-18)

2. Provide help to our brother/sister in Christ.

“And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.”

(Rom. 15:14)

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,…” (Col. 3:16)

“Nothing is so cruel as the tenderness that consigns another to his sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe rebuke that calls a brother back from the path of sin.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Compassion without confrontation is merely commiseration – fruitless and sentimental” -Henri Nouwen

“Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reprover to a listening ear.” (Prov. 25:12)

3. Carry out our ministry.

18

“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of

reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.” (2 Cor. 5:18-19)

God LOVES unity! (Ps. 133:1)

How do we do this?

1. Look first at our self.

²³

“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me

and know my thoughts! ²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”

(Ps. 139:23-24)

“...first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.” (Matt. 7:5)

⁷

“You cannot fool God, so don't make a fool of yourself! You will harvest what you plant. ⁸ If you follow your selfish desires, you will harvest destruction, but if you follow the Spirit, you will harvest eternal life.” (Gal. 6:7-8)

...[be] eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Eph. 4:3)

2. Approach with kindness, compassion, and gentleness.

12

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility,

meekest, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

14

“And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

16

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Col. 3:12-16)

3. Use God's whole truth.

“But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.”

(Titus 2:1)

“Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority.”

(Titus 2:15)

4. Go in humility.