

Christ at the Crossroad of Confrontation

(Matthew 16:21-28)

Introduction: Guided experience is the best teacher because it adds one key factor: confrontation. Unfortunately, confrontation is often thought of as something negative – an ugly scene with fur flying and feelings foundering. This is probably because many people know how to affront better than confront. Scripture, thankfully, shows us a different meaning of the word, a meaning that can help us build a solid understanding of the do's and don'ts of this essential process.

My Notes:

I. Gaining an Understanding of Confrontation

A) Although the word confrontation does not appear in Scripture, the concept is there in both Old Testament and New in at least 5 synonyms:

1. Reproof (Prov. 10:17; 12:1)
2. Rebuke (Prov. 17:10; 2 Tim. 4:2)
3. Wounds (Prov. 27:6)
4. Correct (Prov. 29:17)
5. Discipline (Heb. 12:10-11; cf. vs. 5-10a)

B) What it means: Confrontation is speaking the truth in a personal, face-to-face encounter with someone we love regarding an issue that needs attention or correction.

C) How it works:

1. Confrontation should be done _____ (Matt. 18:15-17; 7:12).
2. State the issue _____ and _____.
3. Provide examples – without exaggerating.
4. Suggest a _____ of action.
5. Reassure your friend of your concern, compassion, and care.

II. Observing It in Action: Christ and Peter

A) When to confront (Matt. 16:21-23):

1. When people become _____ to us or others.
2. When people have set their minds on man's _____, not God's.

B) Why to confront (Luke 22:31-34):

1. To strengthen areas of _____.
2. To soften _____ and warn of blind spots.

C) How to confront (Luke 22:47-62) (4 methods of confrontation):

1. An abrupt, passionate _____ (v. 51).
2. A thought-provoking _____ (v. 52).
3. A well-worded, analytical _____ (v. 53).
4. A mere _____ (v. 61).

III. The Next Time You Need to Confront

A) Keep in mind three essentials:

1. Be _____. 2. Be _____. 3. Be _____.

Conclusion: Confronting a friend may be the hardest things we've ever done, but if we love someone, we'll care too much to keep quiet.