

“COMMUNICATION AND CONFRONTATION”

Eph 4:12-14

Man told me: I really like Pastoring, but I hate confrontation. Very difficult to be a man of God. One of the key skills in all of life is communication.

I. CONFLICT AND COMMUNICATION

A. The reality of human relationships is conflict

1. Someone will say or do something that is not right/we think isn't right/we don't like/is offensive

B. Our scripture warns about being children (written to adults) – acting childish *moves from doctrine to communication*

1. **Ignoring conflict:** Many don't like the emotion involved in conflict – the drama (*they might react/retaliate*)

- a. You are tormented/not happy in life: *The situation eats away at your happiness/focus*
- b. It changes relationships: *Creates tension - Anger/distance/coldness/retaliation*
- c. The situation always gets worse: *Now you view them as a problem/add interpretations/reactions*
 1. They continue to do things that are offensive/harmful

2. **Reacting childishly to conflict:** Children aren't reasonable in conflict *Me as a child: Stupid Julie!*

- a. Make the issue be all about your ego: Our egos are always involved to some degree
 1. We view the original issue as a personal attack: *They are deliberately dissing/attacking me*
 2. We take personal offense at what is spoken: *We can't see the original issue any more!*
- b. We make the problem worse instead of better

3. **Viewing people as an enemy:** We can assume the worst motives in others – especially in conflict

- a. The only option we have is nuclear: *Hand grenades for every issue*
 1. *How can I destroy this person's argument/destroy this person? I win!*
- a. The only option is removal
- b. You might be seeing it incorrectly: *The issue/the person*

C. These reactions will make it very difficult to be an effective man of God – Pastor people

1. You can limit your effectiveness: very small ministry
2. Ultimately you can be unable to Pastor!

a. *Genesis 11:7-8* Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.

2. Not just ministry: You will also struggle in many areas of life; *Relationships/marriage/job/career*

II. WISDOM IN CONFLICT COMMUNICATION

A. How you view people

1. Most people are not evil: They are not deliberately doing damage – they don't want to do damage
 - a. Many people are simply unaware: *Concert issues*

B. Communication is the key to all of life – all human relationships

1. If you can communicate well – you can build effectively: *Marriage/career/family/ministry*

a. *Genesis 11:6* The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.

C. Rules of Communication

1. **You have to talk about issues:** Even if it's uncomfortable

a. *People describe a problem... have you talked to them about it? Asked about it?*

2. **How you approach people is often the key** Open their heart by defusing tension/ego

a. *Help me to understand...* b. *I may be seeing this wrong...* c. *I'm sure you don't mean to...*

3. **Find out the facts before making a judgment/pronouncements**

a. *Proverbs 18:13* Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish.

- b. This means that you must listen

1. *James 1:19* Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

4. **Hold our ego in check:** Repent of our pride *Prov 13:10* Pride only leads to arguments, but those who take advice are wise.

- a. They may be saying it offensively – but what's the message?

1. *Every couple plays this game: You always/never...you said it like this...no I didn't!!*

5. **Keep the big picture in mind:** We often want the same thing!

6. Ask God to help you communicate well/effectively

- a. You can get better at it!