

THE ABILITY TO CONFRONT

1 Chronicles 17:1-4

One of the parts of ministry men struggle with is the ability to confront people. Confront sin, religious people, convert killers, etc. So instead they leave them in place to avoid conflict and instead struggle unnecessarily. If you are going to Pastor, you must have the ability to confront people (WHEN NEEDED). In the passage we are going to look at, a prophet by the name of Nathan has the ability to do this very thing.

I PEOPLE AND PROBLEMS:

A- Part of the reality of Pastoring is: With people comes problems!

1. PWM: "Where there are people, there is going to be problems"

a. OT: The COI complained, they sinned... book of Judges is the pendulum of rebellion & sin.

2. **Luke 17:11 KJV** Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offenses will come...

a. People will offend, be offended, cause problems, inflame problems, create conflict, sin, complicate things...

B- Now; Problems aren't fun: but they are a reality... It will come with the ministry.

1. Confronting them and dealing with them is also not fun, but it is a reality... It comes with the ministry package!

2. People problems can be: Messy/Emotional/Vexing/Draining/Consuming at times...

a. It's important that you are aware of the reality, and aware of the need to navigate them & deal with them.

b. Nathan was a prophet for God's people, and he had to confront the people & his king at times... It came w/ ministry

II THE ABILITY TO CONFRONT:

A- Now; Nathan had the ability to do the hard jobs.

1. He had the ability to correct what he said: **1Chron 17:2-3** And Nathan said to David, "Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you." ³ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan...

a. He had the ability to go back and say, I spoke wrong, actually something else needs to happen.

i. Thats difficult for some men! And they wind up losing people or damaging people.

b. He had the ability to challenge sin: Nathan was the prophet who challenged David about his sin!

i. Believe it or not, this is very difficult for some men to do! They are intimidated, or fearful, or imbalanced...

1. B/c its family/friend/they're influential/they're talented...

ii. So they leave harmful people in the church!

B- In order to do this there has to be some things at work in you!

1. There needs to be a Confidence in your calling: Nathan was God's prophet, he was Called by God- (*identity*)

a. For you; In your calling/ministry you have been called by God... That is a weighted position

i. **Heb13:17** Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls...

2. There needs to be a Confidence in Gods word: **1Chron 17:4** Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord:

a. This is what God says... If God says it, that means it is the best direction & the wisest plan for life.

i. Men who lack the ability to confront based on God's word, are missing a revelation of His truth!

3. There needs to be a confidence in Leadership Experience: **Prov22:28** Do not move the ancient landmark that your fathers have set... Call your pastor & do as he instructs.

a. The standards we have in place have been tested and are true... 52 years of ministry & 3,100 churches worldwide tells me our leaders have an understanding of people, life, sin, & truth.

b. Nathan had the Law, the record of the Pentateuch... Its been tested and true!

III DEVELOPING THE HEART OF CONFRONTATION:

A- You might not be good at this, but you can develop the ability & heart of confrontation!

1. Pray for it: 2Chron 1:10 Give me now wisdom and knowledge... Solomon asked God for wisdom, and what was one of his first tests? CONFLICT between 2 mothers.

2. Understand that as Pastors we Confront things because it is RIGHT: 1Chron 17:3 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan... GOD said to Nathan.

a. There are things God said to do, and not do... how to live and not live... since God said it, its RIGHT

3. We confront from a heart of LOVE:

a. Love for the Person: We deal with things because we want the best for people/we want them to make heaven their home!

i. **1Cor5:5** deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord

b. Love for the Church: Because sin/rebellion/immorality will harm the church.

i. **Gal5:9** A little leaven leavens the whole lump... In the context of False Doctrine, it effects the church!

c. Love for the Future: Future of the church/Future converts/Future Disciples.

i. **Mt7:24** Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

1. Building on the words of Jesus Christ will preserve a work, will turn a work... sometimes that involves confronting people/spirits/sin...