

“Have the Hard Conversation”

1. All Followers of Christ Quit Following From Time To Time

- “...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” - Romans 3:23

2. Conflict & Confrontation is Inevitable

3. Foster A Culture Of Openness

- “...confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” - James 5:16

4. Personally Invite Correction, Be Correctable

5. Christians Are Instruments of Sanctification

- “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” - Proverbs 27:17

6. Paradox Of Addressing Foolishness

- “Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.” - Proverbs 9:7-9
- “Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.” Proverbs 26:4-5

7. Always Preach a High Position in Christ

- There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus... For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 8:1, 38-39

8. Establish Friendship & Relational Capital Before

9. Operate Out Of Approval, Not In Need Of It

- “For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.” - Galatians 1:10

10. Be Deliberate & Proactive, Then Follow Up

11. Stab In The Front, Not The Back

- “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church...” - Matthew 18:15-17

13. Body Language/Tone & Time/Place Matters

14. Be Faithful: Concern Yourself w Input, God Takes Care of the Output

- “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.” - 1 Corinthians 3:6

15. Division Spreads Like Wild Fire, ‘The Boot’ Might Be Eventually Called For (In Extreme Cases)

- As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned. - Titus 3:10-11

16. It's Ultimately About Restoration, Not Winning Arguments

17. Redirect to Mission, Not Self-Loathing/Guilt

- "Godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death." - 2 Corinthians 7:10

18. It's about loving the Sheep and Loving Jesus

- "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-38)

19. There Are Good Ouches

- "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy." - Proverbs 27:6

20. Be Wise: Not Every Problem Is Yours to Deal With

21. Use the Word When Possible - It Is Useful

- "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

22. Don't Be Hypocritical, Be More Upset By Your Own Sin

- "How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye." - Luke 6:42

23. Avoid Gossip Like the Plague - It Ruins.

- "A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends." - Proverbs 16:28

24. Awkwardness & Silence is Okay

25 Don't Be Quarrelsome, Pick Battles Wisely

- "Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will." - 2 Timothy 2:23-26

26. Don't Be Afraid, Be Strong & Poised

- "God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." - 2 Timothy 1:7

27. Fear The Right Person

- "The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe." - Proverbs 29:25

28. Good Physicians Have the Hard Conversation