



INSTRUMENTS IN THE REDEEMER'S HANDS

Lesson 10 – Speak II: Speaking the Truth in Love

Concepts and Objectives

- Concept: The progressive steps of confrontation are consideration, confession, commitment, and change.
- Personalized: I must be committed to a “put off” (consideration, confession), and “put on” (commitment, change) personal lifestyle.
- Related to others: I must be committed to a process of speaking truth to others that encourages lasting change.

Lesson Content

Key Question: Whose agenda are we following in confrontation (Why are we confronting the person)?

- Are we confronting others like miniature kings and queens, communicating our opinion and trying to get people to do what would please us? Or,
- Are we confronting as ambassadors, helping others to see themselves clearly in the mirror of God’s Word, leading them to real repentance of the heart?

What are the steps of biblical confrontation?

Progressive Steps of Confrontation.

1. Consideration. What does God want the person to see?
 - a. What does the person need to see [about himself, God, others, life, truth, change, etc.] that he does not now see, and how can I help him see it?
 - b. Goal: to help the person look at his behavior and to examine his heart.
 - c. Five questions to encourage biblical thinking:
 - i. What was going on?
 - ii. What were you thinking and feeling as it was going on?

- iii. What did you do in response?
 - iv. Why did you do it?
 - v. What was the result?
2. Confession. What does God want the person to admit?
 - a. Confession is not merely recognizing the sin, nor admitting that they did something wrong.
 - b. Confession is agreeing with God about the sin. That involves speaking to God in prayer to
 - i. Admit the sin (the way God would describe it),
 - ii. Abhor the sin (the way God hates it),
 - iii. Adore the Lord Jesus for His love and forgiveness, and
 - iv. Ask for His help to change.
 - c. The person may also need to be encouraged to confess the sin to all the people who have been affected by it.
 3. Commitment. To what new ways of living is God calling the person?
 4. Change. How should these new commitments be applied to daily living?
 - a. Lasting change is not merely new personal insight or verbal commitments.
 - b. Those insights and commitments need to be applied daily. Commitment is the “what;” change is the “how.”

Learn to Confront Biblically

When possible, start with interactive confrontation:

- Two-way communication.
- Use of metaphor.
- Self-confronting statements.
- Summary.

When ministering to those who are stubborn, rebellious, and proud, they may not participate in the give-and-take of interactive confrontation.

They may need declarative confrontation:

- This is what God says.
- Repent!

We should always begin with interaction (engaging a person in heartfelt self-examination) and only move to declaration (“Thus says the Lord,” with a call to repent) when interaction is ineffective.

The Big Question: What does it look like to confront someone biblically?

Concepts

1. The goal of confrontation is lasting change in a person’s heart and life.
2. The progressive steps of confrontation are consideration, confession, commitment, and change.
3. If the goals of confrontation are to help a person see his sin and repent, then it is essential that the confrontation be interactive.

Personalized

1. I must be committed to a process of truth-speaking that results in lasting heart change.
2. I must follow the example of Christ as I speak truth and seek to give insight to those around me.
3. I must ask myself, ‘Where is God seeking to help me see and lead me to repentance?’

Related to Others

1. I must patiently lead people through the steps of confrontation.
2. I must learn to ask good, heart-revealing questions.
3. I must learn to find metaphors in others’ lives that help them to see truth.

Make It Real

Answer these questions in light of your Personal Ministry Opportunity.

1. How will the progressive steps of confrontation help your confrontation to be godly?
 - a. What does the person need to consider? How will you help him see what he needs to see?
 - b. What things does he need to confess? How will you assist him in godly confession?
 - c. What commitments does the person need to make? How can you help them be specific and concrete?
 - d. What practical changes need to take place? How will you assist the person to be specific so that he can determine whether real change has happened?
2. How will you best confront the person you have chosen for your Personal Ministry Opportunity? Be creative as you study the multiple ways that confrontation can take place: two-way communication, use of metaphor, self-confrontation, summary.
3. How well have you done the confrontation described in questions one and two? What have you typically done? Where do you need to change? Do you need to confess sinful and unwise behavior to the person you have chosen for your Personal Ministry Opportunity?
4. Pray honestly and faithfully for God's work in your heart in these areas.