

“Avoiding the Constant Confrontation Catastrophe”

Leaders,

We all know that confrontation is going to be an important part of our routine as leaders. In fact, I dare say that confrontation is almost an absolute most everyday that you’re coming into contact with people.

Being a very confrontational person, I’ve been motivating Christians and particularly leadership for years, to rise up, stop being pushovers and ascend to the position of the preachers God’s called us all to be. This means developing a holy aggression and overcoming the fear to speak up and act if need be. You’re all aware that I’m not the only one whose been releasing this type of information to the Body of Christ, for in recent years some of our favorite “Christian Catchphrases” have become things like... “you cannot conquer, what you refuse to confront”.

However, even in the midst of a spotlight being shown in the area of confrontation, we must be careful to realize that things aren’t always “surface” deep in the Kingdom of God. There are facets, realms and even dimensions to almost everything God brings us the revelation of. Because of this, if we choose to neglect the full revelation in its entirety, we are simply going to produce a “Constant Confrontation Catastrophe”!

Keeping this in mind, consider with me, what I believe to be at least three of the sphere’s of confrontation. These sphere’s aren’t in random order, but divine order. Our first is the most bearable or the easiest level of confrontation to accept and after that they crescendo!

1. Resist

Galatians 2:11-14 (NKJV) - Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before *them* all, “If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?”

Now Paul had an attitude. I call it an “Apostolic Attitude” and it’s seen here in this text clearly that Paul “withstood” or “resisted” Peter for his hypocritical actions. I think it’s important to note that Paul was outraged by the “actions” and not the “actor”. When Paul noticed somebody ministering a watered down word, he was ready to confront and didn’t mind an audience either. As leaders, it’s important to respect folks when offering correction. What I mean is most can happen behind closed doors as not to intentionally embarrass the one being instructed. However, when the action leaves negative impact upon a multitude of people, sometimes it’s better to fix it in the midst of those who’ve been infected by the negative impartation.

2. Reject

Titus 3:10 (NKJV) - Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,

Here we find a direct charge to “step up” the confrontation when in regard to a “divisive” man. If there’s anything the Lord is intolerant of – it’s the one who sows discord among the brethren. (See Proverbs 6)

I'm making an urgent plea to all those in leadership: Find the place where the contention is starting and stop it immediately. It's better to upset or even lose a contentious man, rather than pastor a church full of folks poisoned by his venom. Be a man or woman of God, get some spiritual backbone and reject a divisive man quickly. Souls are at stake!

3. Rebuke

Titus 1:13 (NKJV) – "...therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,"

Finally, we're seeing an ultimate call to aggressive and even "sharp" rebuke. If you'll begin reading in verse ten of this chapter you'll find out that scripture is speaking regarding people who are insubordinate, idle talkers, deceivers, claiming to be prophets, teaching falsely and we read that their mouths **MUST BE STOPPED!** Get ready for a showdown, because I've learned in my short years of ministry that when rebellion is producing like this, it's rooted deep and won't probably be an easy extraction. However, stand firm in your calling and follow the word.

In closing, I'd like for you to consider these realms of confrontation from now on. You know, often times I find ministers who only flow in this third kind of confrontation. All they know how to do is rebuke. But you've read clearly in this bulletin that there's more than one realm of confrontation. Every situation isn't calling for realm three; some just need resisting or rejecting. In short, follow the Holy Spirit, He's promised to lead us and guide us in all paths of righteousness.