

Confrontation

"I warned those who sinned before and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again I will not spare them." II Corinthians 13:2

For the most part men love competition and hate confrontation. A man may love a hard game of tennis, but hate firing a problematic employee, choosing instead to send a subordinate to do the job for him. Confrontation plays an important role in the Christian life. Biblical confrontation seeks what is best for the one being confronted. You do not confront others out of anger or a vindictive spirit, as though you seek revenge. "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."¹ You confront because you seek to help the one being confronted. You confront others for the same reason the Lord confronts you.

Confrontation is one of the highest expressions of love. When done in love and compassion, confrontation is one the kindest things you can do for another person. A refusal to confront when needed, is one of the most selfish things you can do. The parent who says, "I love my child too much to discipline him," says in reality, "I love myself too much to discipline; confrontation is too distasteful for me."

When Jesus said, "Judge not, that ye be not judged,"² He did not have this type of confrontation in mind. Rather, He warned against the censorious spirit. Confrontation is not criticizing another; it is helping that person so that he will not be further hurt by his behavior.

¹Romans 12:19 ²Matthew 7:1