

Six Guidelines When Confessing

Right Attitude

- Always think of them as more important than you – (Philippians 2:3-4)
- Have NO expectations about changing them
- Go with a heart that knows you wronged them and will confess your wrong, no strings attached
- Be Humble & Defenseless
- Believe Resolution is Possible
- Slow Your Emotions Down!

Philippians 2:3-4: Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for your own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Right Words

- When confessing be careful of the words you use
- If you have not confessed to God, you will not like using the words that must be used here
- A Pattern for Right Words.

A Pattern for Right Words

- **AGREE:** I was wrong when I (describe attitude and actions)
- **ACKNOWLEDGE:** I realize that this has hurt you (and others)
- **ADMIT:** I regret my actions and repent before God and you
- **ANNOUNCE:** I plan to (state actions) to help me not do that again
- Thank you for listening. If there are other items that need to be cleared up, I am willing to discuss those also, now or later.

Right Method

- A personal visit is probably the best overall
- A phone call can be very helpful for tough issues
- A letter is least preferred

Right Time

- Is the time convenient for the other person?
- Is it a time when you would not likely be interrupted?
- What is a danger when thinking of the right time?

Right Communication Style

- Deal gently even if they are not gentle with you
- Slow the emotions down!
- Prepare before and even role-play gentleness
- Use speech seasoned with grace
- Take 100% Responsibility to Communicate
 - Communication is cursed
 - Communication is delicate
 - Understand first, then disagree
 - Don't assume you will be understood
 - Look at them during conversation
 - Speak the "Truth in Love" (Eph. 4:15)

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 6:16-19 These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.

Right Meeting Guidelines

- Create handout (see Meeting Guidelines) for the parties that will be participating
- Ask permission of the other party to send the guidelines to them
- In some situations, select a trusted, wise third party to facilitate
- Use the guidelines even if no third party present
- Look up all the verses in the Meeting Guidelines prior to meeting to refresh your mind to truth