

By Kevin Porter

THE LOST ART OF CONFRONTATION

Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed...Gal 2:11 NKJV

In the politically correct world that we live in, Christians have lost the willingness and courage to confront sin and unbelief. The pastor of the largest church in America goes on a nationally known interview show, and refuses to say that Jesus is the only way to Heaven. A Christian woman writes a book on prayer, but fails to mention speaking in tongues, even though they themselves speak in tongues. Today, I heard a Catholic nun say that you go to Heaven if you are a 'good person' ...again, in direct contradiction to Scripture. Political correctness, or spiritual cowardice, has stolen the moral authority of the Church.

Where is the man or woman who will stand and declare the truth? The man who makes a virtue of 'tolerance' is a man with no convictions, no standards, no core beliefs.

No one enjoys confrontation, just as no sane person enjoys war. But as Genesis to Revelation testifies, some times war is necessary, be it physical or spiritual. Some times, when a person is headed for hell, or a saved one has been diverted from the way of righteousness, confrontation is necessary. Confrontation then becomes an act of love.

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful. Prov 27:6 KJV

Love gives you the authority to speak into someone's life. Imagine if the surgeon feared to do the surgery because he didn't want to hurt someone when he cut their skin with a scalpel! He could say, "Sure, you died because you didn't get the operation that you needed...but at least I didn't hurt you with my scalpel!" Love has to make some cuts at times, because someone's life is at stake.

Confrontation in the household of faith is demanded.

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. Gal 6:1-2 NKJV

Gentleness is the use of authority in a measured way depending upon the circumstances and the response of the one being restored. Peter seemed to be the kind of guy that required a firm confrontation. Paul got in his face. Jesus called him 'satan' (Mark 8:33)! Peter responded to their reproof with the heart of a champion...and its because of that response to reproof that he is recorded as one of the greatest apostles (a good study for you would be to compare how Jesus handled Judas and Peter. Jesus honored Judas by giving him the sop at the last supper, in effect saying, "I love you. I honor you. Don't betray Me..." As for Peter, Jesus figuratively hit him between the eyes with a club. Two very different approaches, the same love).

Confrontation with the unsaved is demanded.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. Mark 16:15-16 KJV

Do you know what 'damned' means? A righteous God demands a just payment for sin. Either we accept God's substitute payment for our sins, Jesus, or we pay the bill ourselves. Either choice has eternal ramifications - eternal life, through accepting what Jesus did for us, or eternal death, because the wages of sin is death.

The world, meaning everyone in it, must be confronted with the reality of their sins and their need for a savior. This is love. To be tolerant of sin is to cheerfully pat someone on the back and say, "Go to hell! And have a good time getting there..." That is not love. In fact, that is cowardice. God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost. Mark 13:11 KJV

What do you say to a unsaved person, or to a back slidden believer? The Holy Spirit will give you a word to speak, if you ask Him. The anointing of God will come upon you. This is why witnessing, which is a form of confrontation, is so electrifying. Love for the lost or backslidden person energizes faith to receive and deliver a word from God almighty. You...yes, you...can speak a word from God, dear one...

The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion. Prov 28:1 NKJV

Throw off the shackles of cowardice and 'correctness' and speak the truth in love. God demands it, and the times require it. You are bold as a lion, dear one. Let the enemy hear the roar of the Lion of Judah in you, and let the lost and searching see the light of the Truth, whose name is Yeshua ha Mashiach, in your eyes. This is the heart, and the art, of confrontation...

Remember, dear ones, we must be about our Father's business...