

The Art of War Armed For Peace (Part 1)

There is a time for everything...a time to be silent and a time to speak... (Eccl. 3:1, 7)

Sometimes it is necessary to engage in courageous conversations...

My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins. (James 5:19-20)

Danger occurs when there is spiteful provocation rather than loving confrontation...

Stone is heavy and sand a burden, but provocation by a fool is heavier than both. (Prov. 27:3)

Weapons that provoke:

- ***Unfair withholding***
- ***Unfair criticism***
- ***Unfair remembering***
- ***Unfair leveraging***

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. (Rom. 12:10)

Courageous conversations involve words that are...

- ***Truthful*** – “A truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is deceitful.” (Prov. 14:25)
- ***Helpful*** – “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” (1 Thes. 5:11)
- ***Intentional*** – “A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.” (Prov. 25:11)
- ***Necessary*** – “When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.” (Prov. 10:19)
- ***Kind*** – “Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.” (Prov. 25:15)

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Eph. 4:29-32)