COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

Responding to God's Love with Love



WHAT ARE PERSONAL COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS?

- Honest conversations that might not go well
- Feedback on boundary concerns
- Asking for more or less in a relationship
- Apologizing
- Being vulnerable/emotional

Honesty creates the possibility of being truly known.

Working through conflict builds trust.

Vulnerability creates opportunities for deeper connection.

Avoidance can create emotional distance.

Courageous conversations communicate that the relationship matters

WHAT DID JESUS DO?

Sometimes he refused to engage with provocation

The Authority of Jesus Challenged – Matthew 21:23-27

When Jesus returned to the Temple and began teaching, the leading priests and elders came up to him. They demanded, “By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right?”

“I’ll tell you by what authority I do these things if you answer one question,” Jesus replied. “Did John’s authority to baptize come from heaven, or was it merely human?”

They talked it over among themselves. “If we say it was from heaven, he will ask us why we didn’t believe John. But if we say it was merely human, we’ll be mobbed because the people believe John was a prophet.” So they finally replied, “We don’t know.”

And Jesus responded, “Then I won’t tell you by what authority I do these things.

WHAT ELSE DID JESUS DO?

- He withdrew when he needed space
- He allowed people to make their own choices, even when they disappointed him
- He refused to retaliate when mistreated
- He sometimes chose silence

WHAT ELSE?

- He confronted hypocrisy and misuse of power
- He named the impact of betrayal without pretending it didn’t hurt

HE DIDN'T OFFER HIMSELF INDISCRIMINATELY TO EVERYONE

John 2:23-25 (NLT) - Jesus and Nicodemus

Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in him. But Jesus didn’t trust them, because he knew all about people. No one needed to tell him about human nature, for he knew what was in each person’s heart.

HONESTY LEADS TO MATURITY

Ephesians 4:15

"But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ."

- **Tolerance is not the same as avoidance.**
- **Kindness is not the same as silence.**
- **Acceptance is not the same as agreeing or pretending something doesn't matter.**
- **Speaking honestly is not the same as being unkind.**

TRUTH **AND** LOVE

Love without truth can become avoidance.

Truth without love can become a weapon.

The challenge is to hold both together.

TRUTH **AND** LOVE

We can genuinely want connection, offer an honest invitation to be better known, and end up watching someone walk away.

OR

We can choose to be vulnerably honest and it deepen trust and connection.

SERENITY PRAYER (LIKELY REINHOLD NIEBUHR)

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can,
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;
taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it;
trusting that You will make all things right
if I surrender to Your will;
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with You forever in the
next.

Amen.