

Carefronting Ephesians Part 37

*“Instead, speaking the truth in love,
we will in all things grow up into Him who is the head, that is, Christ.”*

Ephesians 4:15

David Augsburger wrote a book called *Carefronting*. My spell check is having a fit. “You mean confronting!” No, I mean carefronting. Yes, he made up a new word. I’ve been accused of that a time or two also. But he did it with the intention of giving the word confronting a new sound and feel.

Many of us don’t like to confront. We wait until we are so mad that we blow our corks at the person who is aggravating us. Other times we let the bad behavior of a spouse or friend go on and on because we are so afraid of hurting their feelings. And then there is the fear that we all have: “If I confront this person they are just going to get angry and resentful of me.”

But folks, some of the people in your life need your help. They cannot see themselves and their offensive behaviors. The Lord wants to use you to help them see and correct their communication habits. Carefronting is speaking the truth in love. If you read the verse above, you can see that people cannot “grow up” with out your help.

Carefronting is offering genuine caring that invites another to grow. Carefronting is offering real help to people who need to see their behavior and need new insights into how they can be better Christians. Carefronting unites love and the exposure of a problem.

Conflict - that has a bad name too. I don’t think I’ll make up another word for it but I do hope you and I can get it into our skulls that there is no such thing as life without conflict. Conflict has a bad rap because it can turn into bad and disastrous ends, but it doesn’t have to. Conflict is natural, normal. I once met a couple who said they never had an argument. I just stared at them, speechless. I started thinking that maybe I was weird. Arguments seem to follow me. Later, when I was reading a pre-marital counseling book, the author, Dr. Wayne Mack said, “One thing for sure, a Christian home is not without its conflicts and problems. It is more likely to strike two pieces of flint together and not get a spark than it is to put two sinners together and not have conflicts.” He agreed that conflicts are a normal and natural part of life, especially because so many differences and disagreements occur in relationships.

Here are five tips David gives for carefronting:

1. Carefront caringly (express real concern for the person).
2. Carefront gently (watch your tone and attitude).
3. Carefront constructively (give real examples and helpful solutions).
4. Carefront acceptable (don’t do a motive test or poke at one’s intentions. You don’t know that for sure. Instead, be positive in your approach).
5. Carefront clearly (speak your observation not your interpretation, stick to the facts and watch out for emotional dumping).

I hope as a loving body that we at New Life care enough to help others grow. But let’s do it with love. Carefront.