

My Crazy Family

The Elephant in the Room (Week 2)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

When we speak the truth in love, repentance and redemption are possible.

Key Scriptures

Jesse was the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah). Matthew 1:6

David was furious, "As surely as the LORD live," he vowed, "any man who would do such a thing deserves to die! He must repay four lambs to that poor man for the one he stole and for having no pity." 2 Samuel 12:5-6

Then David confessed to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "Yes, but the LORD has forgiven you, and you won't die for this sin." 2 Samuel 12:13

Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his bod, the church. Ephesians 4:14

Too often the elephant in the room gets all our attention or none at all.

Healthy steps for redemptive confrontation:

1. Slow your roll.

A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; a time to be silent and a time to speak. Ecclesiastes 3:7

2. Personal hurts require private conversations.

"If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back." Matthew 18:15

3. Expand the circle for the protection of all.

But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. Matthew 18:16

4. Keep your eye on the prize.

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. Ephesians 4:2-3

Start talking.

- How was conflict handled in your home growing up?
- How did that impact how you address conflict today?

Start thinking.

- Read the account of Nathan confronting David in 2 Samuel 12:1-13. Why did Nathan use the story to confront David?
- How did Nathan's approach help set David up for repentance?
- Read Ephesians 4:14. What is the difference between speaking the truth in love, vs. just speaking the truth?
- Read through the list of healthy steps for redemptive confrontation. How would following those steps positively impact relationships?

Start sharing.

- Of the steps, which is easiest to forget?
- How have you seen confrontations handled well?
- How have you been hurt by negative confrontation?

Start doing.

- Is there a situation you need to confront? Have you slowed down and gone to God with it?
- How can you honor the person while simultaneously confronting the situation?

Closing prayer.

Lord Jesus give me the wisdom to know when to speak and when to be silent. God grant me courage and discernment as I lean into difficult situations. And help me humbly and kindly to speak the truth in love.