

Gospel Commission  
Galatians 1:1-5

*“O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you.” (1 Timothy 6:20 [ESV](#))*

*“By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.”  
(2 Timothy 1:14 [ESV](#))*

Application: God gives every elder in every church the sacred trust of keeping the spring of the Gospel pure. Yet this is a trust given to every church member too. The Gospel is a treasure from God to nourish us and the people we cherish. Let us labor to keep the Spring unpolluted.

**Main Idea: God calls every member of His church to have some hard conversations with others in our church family. We can expect Satan to veer our brothers and sisters away from Jesus in doctrine and in practical living. Let us be ready to be God’s instrument for good in each other’s lives.**

### **Six Items for Setting the Hard-Talk Table**

#### **Item #1: God-ordained Relationship**

Truth: The weight of hard talks is braced by the bridge of relationship.

#### **Item #2: Family Affection/Commitment**

*“Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, **for we are members one of another.**” (Ephesians 4:25 [ESV](#))*

Truth: Hard Talks put the blessing of the other person ahead of our relationship with them. The main reason that we avoid Hard Talks is because we care more about the relationship than we care for the person. We value the other person’s approval more than we value their life.

Truth: Often when we do get up the courage to speak to a brother or sister about a matter in their life that is sinful, we are motivated by anger more than we are affection.

Application: As we set the Hard-Talk Table with our brothers and sisters, let us seek for the love from the Spirit to dominate our hearts. Then once God’s love for them fills our hearts, it is healthy to tell them that we love them.

#### **Item #3: Grace-filled Attitude**

Principle: In grace, God gives us what we do not deserve. In love, God provides for us when we need. In mercy, God withholds from us what we do deserve. God’s grace, love and mercy brings to us a peace with God, with His people and within ourselves.

*“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:17 [ESV](#))*

Application: When we set the Hard-Talk Table, it is wise to communicate your kind intention. Ask the LORD to help you share the problem in such a way that the goodness of grace and peace will flow into the life of the hearer.

#### **Item #4: Cross-centered Foundation**

The cross reminds us of our sin nature.  
The cross reminds us of God’s love.  
The cross reminds us of the resurrection miracle.  
The cross reminds us of the invisible, spiritual war.  
The cross reminds us of our deliverance.  
The cross reminds us of our fellowship.  
The cross reminds us of our eternal purpose.  
The cross reminds us of the peace God has secured for us.

Application: When we set the Hard-Talk Table, we are wise to make the cross of Jesus a recognized and stated centerpiece.

#### **Item #5: God-glorifying Purpose**

*Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” (1 Corinthians 5:6-8 [ESV](#))*

Truth: Hard Talks done the right way may not change the person. In fact, the Hard-Talk may ignite a fire of hatred and anger against you and in the community. But when done in the Spirit, Hard Talks always glorify God. They are what God commands for the sake of His Name.

*Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” (Ephesians 4:15-16 [ESV](#))*

Application: When we set the Hard-Talk Table, we are wise for the glory of God our chief end.

#### **Item #6: Love-infused Clarity**

Error: If we are so soft with our words that our message of correction is unclear, we have not loved our brothers and sisters well.