



Friendship

What Do I Do When a Friend Hurts Me?

Proverbs 27:5-6; John 21:15-19

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5 Better is open rebuke  
than hidden love.

6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend;  
profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

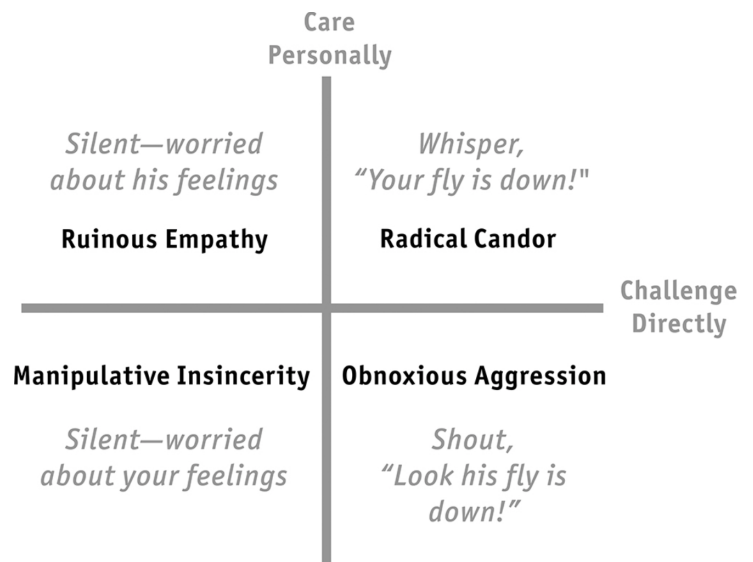
What do you do when a friend hurts you?

Reveal the Truth

- “5 Better is open rebuke than hidden love. 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy”
- Jesus addresses Peter
- **15** When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” **16** He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” **17** He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him

the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. **18** Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” **19** (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me” (John 21:15-19).

- Jesus’ address is earnest
- Jesus’ address is direct
  - “15 Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, 16 but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. 17 The servant girl at the door said to Peter, ‘You also are not one of this man’s disciples, are you?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ 18 Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself. . . . 25 Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, ‘You also are not one of his disciples, are you?’ He denied it and said, ‘I am not.’ 26 One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, ‘Did I not see you in the garden with him?’ 27 Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed” (John 18:15-18, 25-27).
- Jesus’ address is loving
  - “Death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Proverbs 18:21).
    - “There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing” (Proverbs 12:18).
- What prevents you from revealing the truth to your friends?



### Release the Debt

- Jesus forgives Peter.
  - How do we forgive?
    - Identify with the wrongdoer
    - Absorb the debt
      - “and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” (Matthew 6:12).
      - “Forgiveness is inwardly giving up the desire to get even” (Tim Keller, *Forgive*, 167).
  - Will their good

- “Forgiveness is granted (often a good while) before it is felt—not felt before it is granted” (Tim Keller, *Forgive*, 173).
- What debt are you holding over your friend?

### Restore the Friendship

- Jesus reconciles with Peter.
  - “And after saying this he said to him, ‘Follow me’” (John 21:19).
  - Restoration and Reconciliation are always the goal!
    - That means someone has to repent
    - That means someone has to forgive
    - That doesn’t mean the relationship will stay the same.
  - “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all” (Romans 12:18).
- What is preventing you from reconciling with your friend?

When a friend hurts you, reveal the truth, release the debt, and restore the relationship.