

**“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God”** (Matthew 5:9).

Our Lord Jesus’ peacemakers are His beloved servants who by His Spirit are girded with **His supportive love** and are fully available for **Scripturally-based confrontation**. Your specific objective as a peacemaker is to supportively confront **persistent apprehension** in relationships so the **love of our Lord Jesus may abound**. How greatly this essential role of peacemaking is needed throughout Christianity today! And what wonderful fruit emerges from your efforts both within your family and your faith family: **“Peacemakers who sow seed in peace raise a harvest of righteousness”** (James 3:18). Below are redemptive steps for you in bringing about peace, whether you are part of the persistent apprehension or you’re being a peacemaker who intervenes to confront and resolve the apprehension. (Excerpted from the book, ***Growing Relationships Through Confrontation***, by Mike & Sue Dowgiewicz.)

## SUPPORT

**Support encourages the other person.**

### What to support

- The other person’s anxiety, fear, doubt, discomfort over what’s going on.
- The right for them to feel or think differently than you do.
- The reality of their perceptions to them even if they’re not yours.

### How to support

- Pray together for wisdom and truth.
- Let the other person fully speak their case without interrupting.
- Listen! Listen! Listen!
- Restate back what they are saying so they can clarify if need be.
- Verbalize what you’re perceiving to be how they’re feeling.
- Ask for their preferred solution to the situation.

### Don’ts:

- Don’t rush in too quickly with your own solutions.
- Don’t tell them how they shouldn’t feel.
- Don’t cut them off too soon, but don’t allow slander either.
- Don’t judge what they say—describe instead what you’re hearing.
- Don’t give unsolicited advice that is irrelevant to the present issue.



## CONFRONT

**Confronting encourages you (and that’s good!).**

### What to confront:

- Problems that are not being solved but do need resolution.
- Differences that hamper the relationship or throw walls up around either of you.
- Sins, attitudes, behaviors that are detrimental to a good and growing relationship.

### How to confront:

- Treat the issue as a situation you both need to solve as "we", not as "they have a problem".
- Acknowledge the other person’s position as their belief or way of thinking.
- Each of you state your differences clearly and succinctly without interruption or accusation.
- Check to see if you are being understood even if they don’t agree with your thinking.
- Be responsible for your own feelings—don’t blame the other person for causing them.
- Fully explore the differences between you without rancor or bringing up old faults.

### Don’ts:

- Don’t attack their character or imply motives of why they’re doing what they do .
- Don’t railroad your own solution, even if you are in a position to do that.
- Don’t problem-solve until you have both discussed the issues to one another’s satisfaction.

**TO ACHIEVE PEACE REQUIRES SUPPORTIVE LOVE, PATIENCE AND FERVENT PRAYER**