

Communication God's Way

July 6, 2014

COMMUNICATION is the single, most important component to any relationship. The relationship will live or die by its communication.

Proverbs 18:21

"**DEATH** and **LIFE** are in **THE POWER OF THE TONGUE**, and those who love it will eat its fruits."

Proverbs 25:11

"A word **FITLY SPOKEN** ("to speak upon the circumstance") is like **apples of gold in a setting of silver.**"

Ephesians 4:29–5:2

29 **Let no corrupting** (rotten, worthless, unwholesome) **talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up** (to build a house), **as fits the occasion** (as needed or NAS "according to the need of the moment"), **that it may give grace** (kindness, favor, blessing, gift, thankfulness) **to those who hear.**

- **Corrupt talk is the contextual antithesis of building up in verse 29.**
- **The words we speak will either corrupt or build up:**
 - build up or tear down
 - minister life or poison with death
 - minister grace or deliver condemnation
 - minister victory or cause defeat
 - encourage or discourage
 - reconcile or divide
 - accept or reject
 - draw closer or push farther
 - liberate or oppress
 - enable or paralyze
 - create tension or cause defenses to relax
- **Communication is NOT about you, it's all about the other person - what builds them up, what gives to them the gift of grace, what is needed for this particular occasion?**
- **Every conversation throughout the day is a channel for God's grace to flow and minister.**

Ephesians 4:29–5:2

30 And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

- **The Holy Spirit is grieved when our words:**
 - are unwholesome delivering corruption
 - do not edify, encourage, build-up, strengthen delivering grace

Ephesians 4:29–5:2

31 **Let all bitterness and wrath** (outbursts of temper) **and anger** (impulse) **and clamor** (shout, outcry) **and slander** (abusive language, to speak against) **be put away from you, along with all malice** (evil intent).

Ephesians 4:29–5:2

32 **Be kind** (goodness in action, serviceable, easy) **to one another**, **tenderhearted** (compassionate, affection, easily touched), **forgiving one another**, **as God in Christ forgave you**.

1 **Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.**

2 And **walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us**, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

- **In verse 32, kindness and being tenderhearted overcomes the obstacles in communication:**

- facial expression, tone and volume of voice, attitude
- oversharing vs. undersharing
- aggressive vs. available
- over-sensitivity, defenses raised, victim-paranoia
- over-reacting, sharp or abrupt responses
- arrogance or selfish ambition
- control and manipulation
- critical and condemning
- belittling and demeaning
- lack of interest or concern, nothing in common

- **Communication skills and behaviors which convey God's grace:**

- **Romans 12:21** "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."
- **Proverbs 15:1** "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."
- **Proverbs 10:12** "Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses."
- **1 Corinthians 13:5** "Love...is not...resentful (Greek - 'keeps no account of wrongs')."
- **1 Corinthians 13:7** "Love bears all things, believes (trusts) all things, hopes (anticipates) all things, endures (to stay behind, to wait) all things." (address the issue without attaching the person)
- **Ephesians 4:15** "...speaking the truth in love..." (especially when what needs to be said will be hard to hear)
- **Colossians 3:19** "Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh (bitter or sharp) with them."
- **Colossians 3:21** "Fathers, do not provoke (exasperate, stir to anger) your children, lest they become discouraged." (keep the expectations age-appropriate)
- **Philippians 2:3** "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." (the conversation is not all about you)
- **Philippians 2:4** "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." (put yourself in the other person's position or condition)
- **Romans 14:1** "As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions." (don't argue, debate or strive to "win")
- **Proverbs 29:22** "An angry man stirreth up strife, And a furious man aboundeth in transgression." (eliminate negative emotion before you communicate - abstain from any aggressive, abusive or heated words, tone of voice, facial expressions, gestures, body language)
- **Proverbs 18:13** "If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame."
- **Ephesians 5:18–19** "...be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart..."
- **undivided attention** (whenever possible - don't act like you're being interrupted)
- **listen for the message behind the message** (sometimes there is none)