

Identifying Our Problems And Solutions: Communication

Sunday AM 04/15/18

Introduction:

The book "Men are From Mars, Women are From Venus" speaks of the differences between men and women. One big difference is in the way they communicate. The same can be said in our world in general. One big problem our nation and families are having is in the ability to communicate. We see this in politics, race relations, homes with serious problems, etc.

Communication is very important because it is how we exchange ideas, thoughts, opinions, and information. But communication is more than mere words. It also involves body language, manner of dress, the written word (in which we used to be more precise, not count text messages or Facebook messages, or twitter), and verbal communication. We must understand how we choose to communicate is also important. For instances, the written letter, text message, or a phone call; all have an impact on our message. Consider this lesson "Communication 101" or communication for beginners.

I) Getting Rid of Hindrances

A) Don't Rush

1. Listen to what is being said and how it is being said,
James. 1.19
2. Arguments are generally not communication due to not listening.
 - a. You are not listening, when you cannot repeat what was just said.

- b. You are not listening when you are concentrating on your response to what you think the other person is saying.
- 3. If you are angry, *Proverbs 18.13*
- 4. One thing to realize is that you can apologize for saying something but you cannot take it back, *Proverbs 10.19*.
- B) Stay Away from Over Generalizations, *John 21.23***
 - 1. Phrases such as "You never..." or "You always..." are probably incorrect.
 - 2. Give the other person the opportunity to point out you are wrong.
- C) Put Away Distractions, *Luke 10.40-42***
 - 1. Communication can be hard and yet people often allow distractions to hinder them.
 - 2. Turn off the television, put away the phone, stop the text messaging.
 - 3. Concentrate on what the other person is saying.
 - 4. Maintain eye contact.

II) Things To Do

A) Consider the Audience

- 1. Think of their background, whether male or female, upbringing, age group, etc.
- 2. Their experiences, *Hebrews 5.13-14*.
- 3. Jesus and Paul taught to the people.

- a. Jesus spoke of the parable of the sower, unjust judge, vineyard, etc.
- b. Paul spoke differently at Mars Hill in *Acts 17* than when on trial at Jerusalem.

B) Speak So As To Be Understood, *Proverbs 8.7-9*

- 1. Some folks speak in riddles while others imply or insinuate things.
- 2. Others have the ability to be clear and concise. (That is where the written word has the advantage over verbal communication).
- 3. Make sure you keep things simple and stay with the facts, *1 Corinthians 2.1-4*
- 4. Stay on the subject at hand. Don't ramble or get side tracked.
- 5. Define terms so others know what you mean or how you are using words.

C) Speak the Truth, *Proverbs 12.17-19*

- 1. Stay away from half truths or rumors.
- 2. Some say things not knowing whether they are true or not.
 - a. For instance, "Illegal immigrants should be allowed to stay in this country until they do something illegal" - Nancy Pelosi. The problem is she never said this.

- b. Donald Trump specifically exempted his daughter's clothing line from China imports. Not true.
- 3. Check your facts before you speak. Make sure it is true and not just something you heard.

D) Be Consistent, *James 3.9-12*

- 1. It is sad to hear how some people talk when they are "off the record" in public life.
- 2. Hear people talk about God then use coarse and vulgar language.
- 3. Good communication means you choose your words carefully, *Colossians 4.6*.