

## God's Wise Steps to Healthy Communication

### Introduction:

- One of the top causes of f\_\_\_\_\_ in relationships is poor communication.
  1. Most movies and television programs use miscommunication to e\_\_\_\_\_ us.
  2. But when miscommunication happens within our relationships, it usually does not bring us l\_\_\_\_\_.
  3. God's word has much to say about this subject that will help us have healthy communication.
- There are three components to communication that must be accurate in order for healthy communication to take place.
  1. The s\_\_\_\_\_
  2. The r\_\_\_\_\_
  3. The m\_\_\_\_\_

### L\_\_\_\_\_ to what is being communicated to you (Jms 1:19)

- God's wisdom – *be quick to hear and slow to speak.*
  1. We must l\_\_\_\_\_ well.
  2. We must not i\_\_\_\_\_ the communicator.
- Common problems in relationships:
  1. A\_\_\_\_\_ like we are listening when we are not.
  2. A\_\_\_\_\_ we know what the other person is saying.
  3. A\_\_\_\_\_ over what one said.

### U\_\_\_\_\_ what is being communicated to you (Mk 9:10,31,32)

- Jesus was the p\_\_\_\_\_ communicator
  1. He only spoke what the Father c\_\_\_\_\_ Him to speak (Jn 5:19; 12:49).
  2. He spoke in p\_\_\_\_\_ to the general public to fulfill prophecy (Is 6:9,10) but explained the meaning to His disciples (Matt 13:10).
- The disciples sometimes failed in their responsibility to make sure they understood Jesus's words (e.g. Mk 9:10, 31, 32)
  1. Jesus told His disciples that He would have to die, but he would rise from the dead the \_\_\_\_\_ day following His death.
  2. The disciples discussed what Jesus might have meant by rising from the dead. He either meant it l\_\_\_\_\_ or figuratively.
    - a. They should have asked Jesus instead of trying to figure it out on their own, but they were too a\_\_\_\_\_.

- b. Their failure to ask Jesus a simple question (*what do You mean by the term rising from the dead?*) led to their lack of understanding which in turn led to wrong behavior.
- 1) Peter, James, and John s\_\_\_\_\_ while Jesus struggled in prayer just hours before His betrayal.
  - 2) Peter tried to fend off the arresting mob with a s\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) After Jesus was arrested, all the disciples ran to hide in f\_\_\_\_\_.

●When you are being communicated to:

1. Your responsibility is to u\_\_\_\_\_ the message.
2. Don't fail to a\_\_\_\_\_ for an explanation.

**Communicate c\_\_\_\_\_ words (1 Cor 14:6-9)**

●The Corinthian Christians wanted to speak in tongues so bad that they just babbled n\_\_\_\_\_ that no one could understand.

1. True tongues communicated either a revelation, knowledge, prophecy or t\_\_\_\_\_ that the receive could understand.
  - a. One cannot decide to speak in true tongues. The S\_\_\_\_\_ makes them
  - b. Every example of tongue speaking shows this:
    - 1) Acts 2:4 – the 120 disciples spoke in tongues *as the S\_\_\_\_\_ gave them utterance.*
    - 2) Acts 10:45-47 – **The same thing** that happened to the 120 disciples, Peter witnessed happening to Cornelius and his household – the Spirit made them speak in tongues.
    - 3) Acts 19:6 – 12 Gentile men spoke in tongues, prophesying and 2 Pet 1:20 states that no prophecy was ever made by an act of human w\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Paul used the bugle call to b\_\_\_\_\_ to illustrate the importance of communicating clearly (verse 8)
3. Those who decide to duplicate the gift of tongues are just speaking into the a\_\_\_\_\_ (verse 9)

●How can you make sure that your message is understood?

1. A\_\_\_\_\_ words that most people don't know (e.g. pusillanimous)
2. D\_\_\_\_\_ "Christian terms" such as faith, repentance, saved, lost, etc. when witnessing.
3. Don't e\_\_\_\_\_ people to read your mind.
4. Stop speaking in c\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. *Honey, the faucet is dripping*).

**Communicate t\_\_\_\_\_ words (Prov 15:23)**

●God's wisdom – *how delightful is a timely word.*

- Our foolishness - how often have you said the right thing at the w\_\_\_\_\_ time?
  1. Working out marital conflict in front of k\_\_\_\_\_
  2. Giving words of comfort to a person who is g\_\_\_\_\_ by minimizing their feelings (e.g. *he's in a better place*).
- We must say the right thing at the right time for it to be delightfully received.

**Communicate b\_\_\_\_\_ words (Eph 4:29)**

- God's wisdom – *do not let any unwholesome word come out of your mouth but only that which is good for edification, according to the need of the moment that it may give grace to those who hear.*
  1. *Unwholesome* (also translated as corrupt, rotten, foul)
    - a. The gospels use this Greek word in contrast to good fruit and good fish. No one eats bad fruit or fish.
    - b. We must f\_\_\_\_\_ unwholesome words in our minds so they do not come out of our mouths.
  2. *Edification* (also translated as building up) – our words must be designed to h\_\_\_\_\_ a person not h\_\_\_\_\_ them.
  3. *Grace* – a word that means “g\_\_\_\_\_.”
- What are you communicating to build up others?
  1. Your kids?
  2. Your spouse?
  3. Your fellow Christian?

**Conclusion** – Follow God's wisdom in your communications!