

Food For Thought Bible Studies



Christian Communication

Series1 Booklet 1

Introduction to Series 1: Christian Communication

The Bible itself is a book of and about communication. It is hands down the number one topic written about in the Bible. Men of the Old and New Testament recorded God's words as He spoke to them. **(II Peter 1:21)** The purpose of recording their experiences with God were to provide us with endless examples to follow and learn from.

(I Corinthians 10:6 & 11) The Word of God was later compiled into the book we now know as The Holy Bible. Where would we be today if these renowned men had not obeyed and written His word for us to read? Today, the Bible is the most physical, tangible thing we have from God. The apostle John referred to Jesus as the manifested Word of God **(John 1:1)**. When Simeon held the Christ child in his arms he prayed, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace...for my eyes have seen thy salvation." **(Luke 2:29&30)** To the world, you are the most tangible representative of God that they have. This is why how we speak and act is so important. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." **(Mark 13:31)** In the hearts and minds of other people, your words will not fade away either. They will be remembered. First in this series we will cover vocal communication, but that is not the only form of communication. We will also cover actions, but keep in mind that words and actions start off as thoughts. We must first guard our thoughts to guard our words, because thoughts become words which generate actions. God takes note of both your thoughts and your actions **(Isaiah 66:18)**. Be careful what thoughts you think in private. Left unchecked, they will soon manifest themselves in the open. **(Luke 8:17; 12:2&3)** The tongue may be impossible for us to tame **(James 3:8)**, but with God all things are possible **(Matthew 19:26)**!

Christian Communication

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue:
and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."

Proverbs 18:21

Synopsis

Our words, whether good or bad, are a product of the heart. Godly communication comes from a godly heart. (Luke 6:45) This also means that our words are indicators of our spiritual maturity. (James 1:26) Everything we say should be spoken with the utmost care and consideration- as if speaking the very words of God. (I Pet.4:11) Choose your words carefully, because on the day of judgment each of us will have to give an account for every careless word we have spoken. (Matt.12:36&37)

How To Speak

Be gentle and don't shout. Raising your voice and being harsh with another person tends to "stir up anger" and breaks down communication (Proverbs 15:1). People are more likely to listen to what you have to say if you speak in a quiet voice. (Eccl.9:17) Also, you'll be much more persuasive if you are patient and speak with a "gentle tongue" rather than shouting. A gentle voice ultimately has a much more powerful effect. (Prov. 25:15)

Control your anger. Show restraint, and don't let yourself get out of control. (Prov. 29:11)(Eccl. 7:9) A hot-tempered person stirs up arguments (Prov.15:18; 30:33), and is likely to commit many sins as a result of his anger. (Prov.29:22) If you are wise, you will try to

remain even-tempered and show restraint when you speak to others. (Prov.17:27) An "excellent spirit" means a "cool spirit"!

When To Speak

Think before you speak. (Prov. 13:3;15:28) Put a mental guard over your mouth and be careful what you say.

(Prov.21:23)(Ps.141:3) Don't speak too quickly (Prov.29:20). Sometimes, it's better to "hold your tongue" and listen to the other person before you answer. (Prov. 18:13;10:19) You don't have to respond to everything another person says. At times, the best answer is silence. (Eccl.7:21) When you can see that a topic is going to lead to an argument, learn to drop the matter before a dispute breaks out. (Prov. 17:14) Also, be patient and keep things in perspective; it is often wise to overlook an offense.

(Prov. 19:11)

Avoid arguments and quarrels. If you love to quarrel, you probably love to sin. (Prov.17:19) Being an argumentative husband/wife makes you a difficult spouse to live with.

(Prov.19:13;21:19;27:15&16) At all costs, pursue peace in your home and avoid strife. (Prov.20:3;17:1) When tempted to argue, take a breath and remember that the one who argues always loses the fight no matter who's right. Don't have anything to do with foolish arguments. (II Tim.2:23) The Lord's servant must not quarrel. (II Tim. 2:24)

A hotheaded woman told John Wesley, "My talent is to speak my mind!" Replied Mr. Wesley, "Woman, God wouldn't care a bit if you would bury that talent."

What Not To Say

Don't stoop to the other person's level: be the mature one when the other person is being foolish or childish. (Prov.26:4)(I Cor.13:11)

Don't mock others: don't mock or make fun of others (Prov.22:10) (Matt.5:22) Remain humble. (Prov.3:34) People who mock others resent being corrected (Prov. 15:12) And no one likes a mocker, knowing you could be their next victim. (Prov.24:9)

Don't insult others: If someone insults you, don't return the insult. (I Pet.3:9) It is much more wise to overlook an insult. (Prov.12:16)

Don't swear or use filthy language: (James 5:12) Never misuse the Lord's name (Ex.20:7) Refrain from using filthy or obscene language or tell "dirty jokes" (Col.3:8) (Eph.5:4; 4:29)

Don't lie: God detest those who lie but delights in those who are truthful (Prov.12:22)

Don't slander: if you speak falsely about someone in an effort to ruin their reputation this is called slander. God specifically commands us not to slander others. (Lev.19:16)

Don't gossip: whether or not it's a truth or falsehood about a person, gossiping about other's can be harmful to not only them but to yourself as well. While ruining their reputation, you have ruined your reputation as a trusted friend. Gossip is often telling things someone has told you in confidence. (Prov. 11:13; 20:19)

Don't keep bringing up the past: if a person is truly repentant and has demonstrated changes in their actions, you should forgive him/her and stop bringing up the past offense. We are commanded to demonstrate God's love in this way. (I Cor. 13:4&5)

What To Say

Be truthful: it pleases God. (Ps. 51:6) Lies only benefit temporarily, but the benefits of truthfulness lasts. (Prov.12:19)

Say nice things: a kind word is like a healing salve (Prov.16:24) and can be something a person will treasure for a lifetime. (Prov.25:11)

Be Cheerful: you set the mood of the conversation with your tone of voice. A genuine smile can only come from a joyful heart.

(I Thess. 5:16-18) Sometimes, the action must come before the emotion. When you train yourself to think on good things, a smile is not difficult to accomplish. (Phil.4:8)

Encourage one another: (Heb.3:13) (I Thess. 5:11) Provoke righteous emotions and actions out of those around you (Heb.10:24)

We were created in the image and likeness of God. (Gen.1:26) So then, if God can create or destroy with a single word do not our own words possess the same power?

"There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it hardly becomes any of us to talk about the rest of us."

-G.W. Cooke

"If you wouldn't write it and sign it, don't say it."

-Earl Wilson

Food For Thought Bible Study Mission

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

-Ephesians 4:12

- To encourage saints to engage in personal and group home Bible studies
- To equip saints with an accessible material that is easy to teach
- To provide a thought-provoking lesson that is both encouraging as well as challenging

Church Information

Harvestime Worship Center
4797 Hwy 27 South Sulphur, LA 70665
337-583-2264
www.HarvestimeWorshipCenter.com

Service Times

Sunday School 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
Tuesday Night Life Application Bible Study 7:30 PM
Gravity Student Ministries Tuesday 7:15 PM

