

Food For Thought Bible Studies



Christian Communication

Series1 Booklet 2

Introduction: Christian Communication Booklet 2

Does God care more about what we say? Or what we do?

Human nature tends to place more weight on behavior than thoughts or words. God wanted to make it clear that our words are just as important as our actions. We have already discussed how every word that we say will be judged in the end. It is also by our own words that we will either be justified or condemned. (Matthew 12:36&37) The truth is, actions and words are equal in significance. We often quote, "...for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." (I Samuel 16:7) Yet, we often focus only on the part about how the Lord looks on the heart. We must remember that others do not see our heart, they only see what is outward. Our whole being, inside and out, must be found blameless. (I Thess. 5:23) We are known by the way we act. (Matthew 7:20) Can a fountain produce both sweet and bitter water at the same time? (James 3:11-18) No! Our actions are compared to spiritual fruit (Gal. 5:19-23), because it is a product of the heart. The outward man is the manifestation of the inward man.

Christian Communication

"Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and
do not the things which I say?"

Luke 6:46

Synopsis

Our focus with this lesson is how we demonstrate God's love to others through our outward behavior. All actions start with intentions, but they cannot stop there! Jesus' parable about the two sons explains how actions override words or intentions. One son at first refused to do the will of his father, but later repented and did what he was asked. The other son immediately told his father he would do his command but never actually did. Jesus asked the question, "Whether of them twain *did* the will of his father?" The answer was simple. It is the one who repented and ultimately obeyed. (Matthew 21:28-31) What we say and what we do must line up with each other. To only hear and not do is disobedience. (James 1:22) (James 2:14-17) Turn your good intentions into actions! God has specific requirements when it comes to how we, as godly people should treat: #1 our brothers and sisters in the Lord, #2 those outside the church, and #3 those within our household.

The Bible Says:

To love God and love others. If you obey these two commandments you will automatically obey all other commandments! (Matthew 22:37-40) (Rom. 13:9&10) Demonstrate God's love to others by treating them the way you would want to be treated.

To consider how your actions will affect those around you. You have a right to your own convictions and opinions, however do not use your liberty in Christ if it will affect someone else negatively (Gal. 5:13)

When we sin against others in this way, we sin against Christ.

(I Corinthians 8:12)

Instead of judging each other, judge whether or not you are causing others to stumble (Rom. 14:13) (I Corinthians 8:9) The word “offend” means to “cause to sin” or “to hurt or affect disagreeably.”

Whether or not we realize it, our environment is constantly influencing us. (Gen. 30:37-40) Even Jacob’s cattle produced what it was placed around! We should not deliberately do something knowing we could cause a brother or sister to stumble spiritually. (Romans 14:15) Jesus taught to rid even yourself of personal “stumbling blocks” no matter what it might cost you. (Matthew 18:7-9) Keep in mind that God works with us individually, and some brothers and sisters may be “weak” in the Lord as newcomers while you may be more “mature”.

(I Corinthians 8:11) When discussing this matter with the Romans in chapter 14, Paul explained that some of the newly converted Jews still felt conviction for eating “unclean” meats even though they were no longer under the law. Because of this, Paul urged the seasoned saints to not cause these new Christians to stumble spiritually by eating meat in front of them. (Romans 14:15) If God has not yet placed conviction on someone, you should not place judgment on them either. (Romans 14:3) Be careful in this way so that your good intentions are not taken the wrong way. (Romans 14:16)

To lift up those who have sinned. (Gal. 6:1) Consider that it could have been you who made the mistake. Any kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. (Matt. 12:25) Work as a team, and lift up your teammates when they stumble. We are all in this race together!

To keep peace with everyone. (Heb. 12:14) (Eph. 4:3) At times, you

may have to just agree to disagree! Losing a brother or sister in the Lord is not worth winning an argument. Where strife is, every other evil work is also present. (James 3:16)

To remain separate from the world. (I John 2:15) (Rom. 12:2) (I Cor. 5:9-13) Jesus often ate with sinners and publicans (Matt. 9:10-13), but his reason was to reach them, not to befriend them. (Luke 19:10) Notice also that the sinners and publicans came to Jesus and not the other way around. (Matt. 9:10) Those who are hungry for God should automatically be drawn to you, and you should be open to receive them.

Again, others do not see our heart, so one effective way of witnessing is to demonstrate godliness on the outside. Others will come to you with Biblical questions, because they readily recognize that you are different. We are to be a “peculiar people”. (I Peter 2:9) This is not just about clothing. This includes your demeanor as well.

To be prepared at all times to witness to others. (I Pet. 3:15) (II Tim. 2:15) You’ve got to know what you know! Consistent study of the Word will equip you with the correct answer for anyone who asks.

To focus on finding the good in everyone (Titus 3:2) (Phil. 4:8) When we meditate on the negative about someone, it eventually comes out in how we treat that person in the open. (Mark 4:22)(Luke 12:3)

To forgive one another. (Eph. 4:32) Jesus taught that if you do not forgive others he will not forgive you. (Matt. 6:15) That is a serious issue! Holding a grudge demonstrates pride and selfishness in a person.

To pray for one another. (I Tim. 2:1-5) (Eph. 6:18) Praying for others gets our mind on the spiritual things instead of the carnal. How can you pray for someone who you are angry with? (Ps. 66:18) God helps us gain perspective about those around us when we pray for them. When a brother or sister has done their best to carry their load (Gal 6:5), it’s time for us to step in and help them carry it. (Gal. 6:2) One of the ways that we do that is through prayer. Praying for our brothers and sisters is how

we become spiritually connected. Praying together with other believers is vitally important in a Christian's life. (Heb. 10:25) The Holy Ghost fell on the day of Pentecost when they were all together and focused on the same purpose. (Acts 2:1-4) You only need two or three people to be an effective prayer circle! (Matt. 18:20) Some examples of what to pray for others is to pray for needs (Matt. 6:11), spiritual enlightenment (Eph. 1:15-18) (Col. 1:9), discernment (Phil. 1:9&10), and boldness in sharing the gospel (Phil 1:4-6). When you focus your prayer on others, God in turn blesses you! (Job 42:10)

To keep godly order in the household. Paul instructed children within the church to obey their parents (Eph. 6:1), while parents are told to not provoke their children to wrath. (Eph. 6:4) If you continue to honor your parents as an adult, life will go well for you. (Eph. 6:3) When talking to spouses, Paul focused on what each spouse especially needs from the other. Husbands are instructed to love their wives, because wives especially need that love. Wives are to reverence their husbands, because husbands need respect above all else. (Eph 5:22-33) One requirement of ministers is to be able to lead and control what goes on in his household. (I Tim.3:4&5)

To remain submissive on the job. Servants should be obedient to their masters (Eph. 6:5-9), remembering that it is really God who you are serving. If you are over others, you are instructed to refrain from ill-favor and threatening.

To have joy. (Neh. 8:10) (Ps. 5:11) A frown will not display God's joy and peace to those around you. Smile! 😊

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
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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

