

Developing Communication Skills

Communicating: to increase understanding and keep constituents informed.

Biblical communication is:

1. Truthful and loving
2. Adequate – must have sufficient information in order to communicate and function properly.
3. Verbal and non-verbal communication.

“People are more inclined to follow leaders who listen to them and their ideas and opinion. Increased undermining in organizations and families takes place where this is lacking. Wise leaders realize they do not have to agree with everything they hear, but if they don’t take the time to genuinely listen, others are not likely to agree with anything they want to do. Good leaders develop listenerability.”

- W. Vermeulen.

Godly communication is truthful and loving

A. How do you learn to speak truthfully?

1. Saturate your life with Truth
 - a. Come to know Christ the Truth
Doctrine-theology is for the purpose of knowing Christ intimately. In studying about Him you are to study Him, who is Truth!
 - b. Walk before the face of God in truth
1 Kings 2:4; 2 Kings 20:3
Prov. 12:22 -*Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.*
2. Listen, learn, and live the truth
Eph. 4:11-15 – so as not to be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. See also 2 Cor. 12:6, Eph. 4:25, 6:14.
3. Be filled with the Holy Spirit of Truth
One of the fruits of God is truth (Eph. 5:9).

B. How or in what ways should you communicate truth and do so truthfully?

1. Teach others the Truth.
(Deut. 6:4-9; Col. 3:16; Heb. 5:11-14; 1 Tim. 2:7)
A. Wetherall Johnson says that the real aim of all teaching is “to make God Himself and what He says in the Bible so real that those who listen will do something about it.” Teaching is imparting biblical knowledge that will ultimately affect attitudes and behavior.
2. Build up one another in Truth.
(Acts 20:32; Rom. 14:19; 15:2; 1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 4:12-13; 1 Thess. 5:11)
This means that you are involved in promoting the spiritual growth and development of godly character of others in the church.

3. Admonish one another with Truth.
(Rom. 15:14; 1 Cor. 10:11; Eph. 6:4; Col. 1:28; 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:12, 14; 2 Thess. 3:15; Titus 3:10)
This means to “train by word” through encouragement, reproof, protest, or complaint
 - a. Truth is helpful and at times hurtful. Yet truth has the ability to heal spiritually, emotionally, and to heal relationships (Pro. 25:11; Eccles. 12:11; Isa. 50:4; Eph. 4:29).
 - b. You are called upon to be firm, but diplomatic even when correcting opponents (Gal. 6:1; 2 Tim. 2:23-25).
4. Exhort and encourage one another by truth
(Heb. 3:13; 10:24-25; 1 Thess. 4:18; 5:11)
 - a. Exhorting and encouraging one another means to urge and bolster others in their Christian walk by giving aid and comfort. The first way is through God’s truth.
 - b. You are to exhort by strengthening, counseling, and by being a true friend in doing whatever is necessary to promote their good welfare.
5. Bless others by speaking the truth.
Speaking truthfully and wisely has the ability to bring healing and refreshment to others (Pro. 3:3, 7; 8:7; 16:24; 30:8; Eph. 4:25ff).

C. In what manner should you speak to others?

Your speech reveals your heart. The choice of language and vocabulary reveals either a biblical viewpoint or a sinful one (Eph. 4:25 cp 4:15).

1. Speak graciously –be frank but diplomatic, but not insulting, demeaning or inconsiderate or harsh
Col 4:6 - *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.* (Eccles. 10:11)
 - a. Your speech should serve grace to others and be helpful for the moment (Pro. 10:32; 15:23; Eph. 4:29).
 - b. Your speech should be gracious, so that it can be readily received and preserved (Pro. 15:26; Eccles. 10:12; Col. 4:6).
 - c. Even when you are required to speak firmly, be diplomatic, even when correcting opponents (Gal. 6:1; 2 Tim. 2:23-25).
2. Use wholesome language (Ti 2:8; 1:9; 2:2; 1 Tim. 6:3)
This means that your speech lacks evil (Psa. 120:2).
3. Speak boldly.
Speak appropriately and with straight-forwardness (Matt. 5:37). Truth can be offensive, but that should never keep you from speaking it. You are to speak the truth, and not be so concerned with how the recipient will respond. Often s/he will respond by taking offense, but that is not your concern. Speak boldly the truth and leave the consequences to God.
4. Speak carefully (Ex: Pro. 5:2; 10:32; 15:23; 18:1-8).
5. In sum, speak the truth with love – gently but firmly, with the intention of helping and building up (Pro. 15:4; 1 Cor. 13; Gal. 6:1; Eph. 4:15; 5:9).

Self-Check: Not Speaking the Truth in Love (Sinful behavior I need to put off)

Check the boxes that are true for you most of the time.

- I am consistently slow or unwilling to listen; I have a habit of interrupting (Prov. 18:13; James 1:19).
- I do not listen to others well and then react or draw improper conclusions (Pro. 25: 8; 18:17; 27:2; 18:13; Job 13:5).
- I refuse to try to understand the other person's opinions (Jas. 1:19 cp. Pro. 18:2, 13, 15; Phil. 3:15,16).
- I am quick to speak and slow to listen (Psa. 106:33; Prov. 15:23, 28:29:20; Jas. 1:19).
- I talk too much (Job 11:2; 16:3; Eccles. 5:3; 6:11; 10:14).
- My words are rash (Pro. 12:18; 29:20).
- I flatter to manipulate people (Psa. 12:3)
- I lie in order to manipulate things in my favor (Ex. 23:1,7; Psa. 34:13; 58:3; 109:2; Pro. 6:16-19; 12:19; 14:5, 25; 26:24; 28:24; Hos. 4:2; Mk. 7:21-22). Note: liars hate those to whom they tell lies (Pro. 26:28).
- I am generally or often argumentative, quarrelsome or contentious (Prov. 15:18; 17:14; 20:3; Rom. 13:13; Eph. 4:31; 1 Tim. 3:3; 2 Tim. 2:24).
 - a. Argumentative means to bicker, dispute, squabble, wrangle
 - b. Contentious means to compete, to engage in controversy, to be adversarial (Pro. 18:6; 21:19, 22:16; 25:24; Jer. 15:10; 1 Cor. 11:16; Gal. 5:19-20).
- I nag (Pro. 10:19; 16:21, 23; 17:9; 18:6,7; 21:19; 27:15).
- I brag (Psa. 94:4; Jer. 48:29,20).
- I respond verbally to others with uncontrolled anger ((Pro. 14:29; 15:1; 25:15; 29:11; Eph. 4:26, 31).
- I attack those who criticize or blame me (Psa. 10:7; 64:3; Jer. 18:18; Rom. 12:17, 21; 1 Pet. 2:23; 3:9).
- Call other people names, mock or make fun of them (Pro. 12:18; 16:24; Matt. 7:12; Eph. 4:29,30; Col. 4:6).
- My words are biting; they reveal my anger and bitterness (Psa. 10:7; 64:2ff)
- I use language or tone of speech that provokes children to anger (Eph. 6:4).
- 'Grumble and complain' could be my middle name (Phil. 2:14; Jas 5:9).
- I use words that discourage (Pro. 18:1; Psa. 10:7; Ps. 64:2ff cp. Heb. 3:13; 10:24-25).
- What comes from my mouth is often cursing instead of blessing (Psa.10:7; 64:2-4; 109:17).
- I use rotten talk. This is speech that tears down, is non-beneficial, or presumptive (Eph. 4:29; 2 Tim. 2:26; Jas. 4:11-12).

- I *murder* with my mouth (Pro. 11:9; 18:20,21; Matt. 5:21, 22; Jas. 4:11; 5:9).
 - By cutting others with gossip. Gossip means to reveal or discuss personal facts about another person for no legitimate purposes; it often betrays a confidence. It is used to diminish a person's reputation in the eyes of another (Prov. 11:13; 16:28; 20:19; 26:20; 2 Cor. 12:20; 1 Tim. 5:13).
 - By slander –speaking false or malicious words about another, also used to diminish a person's reputation in the eyes of another (Lev. 19:16; Psa. 15:3; Pro. 10:18; 50:20; 2 Tim. 3:3; Ti 2:3; 3:2; Jude 1:10) .
 - By destroying with words rather than building up (Ex. 20:16; Pro. 11:19; 12:18; Jas. 3:5-6 cp. Acts 20:32; Rom. 14:19; 15:2; 1 Cor. 14:26; Eph.6:18-19; 1 Tim. 2:1-4).
 - I cut others down behind their backs (Psa. 15:2,3)

- With words that speak down or cut down another (Jas. 4:11). I condemn instead of commend ((Phil. 1:3; 1 Thess. 1:2; 2 Thess. 1:3).

- I speak harshly (Pro. 15:1; 1 Sam. 25:10-11).

- I scold (Mark 14:3-5; Pro. 15:1; Col. 4:6; Matt. 16:22, 23; 18:15; I Cor. 16:14).

- I make rash judgments. That is condemning another without proper investigation (2 Sam. 16:4; 19:24ff; Matt. 7:1-3; John 9:12ff; 1 Cor. 4:5).

- Tell stories (tale bearing) that are injurious to another (Prov. 11:13; 17:9; 18:8; 20:19; 26:20).

- I am a false witness against others (Ex. 23:1; Deut. 5:20; Pro. 21:28).

- When I speak the truth it is often to harm another person.

Am I verbally abusive?

When the preponderance of the above qualities is evident and my overall demeanor and the overall tone of my home is sinfully negative and oppressive because of my words, then I would be considered verbally abusive.

Speaking the Truth in Love **(what to put on – Eph. 4:21-32)**

- I have a love of God's truth rather than such things as position, fame, abilities, possessions, etc., which are soon to pass away. (1 Thess. 5:21; Heb. 3:6; 4:14; 10:23; Rev. 3:3).
- My speech is often used to praise God (Psa. 66:17; 71:24; 119:172; Phil. 2:11; etc.).
- I desire to please God in my speech (1 Cor. 10:31; 2 Cor. 5:9).
- Words have power of death and life, so I am careful with how I talk (Pro. 18:1).
- I recognize that I must not be careless in the use of my words, since I will give an account of them in the Day of Judgment (Matt. 12:36).
- I struggle and work to guard my mouth (Psa. 39:1; 141:3) so as to avoid all kinds of problems (Pro. 21:23).
- I am careful to use the right words at the right time (Pro. 10:19).
- I think before I talk (Pro. 15:28).
- I am slow to speak and quick to listen (Pro. 15:23, 28; 29:20; 18:13; Jas. 1:19).
- Wise speech brings healing. Often what I say brings healing and refreshment to others (Pro. 8:7).
- I work to grow in my life that I might be wise, so that my words are words of wisdom (Psa. 35:28; 37:30).
- I speak truthfully (Psa. 34:13; Pro. 8:7; Eph. 4:25).
- I speak the truth with love – gently but firmly, with the intention of helping (Pro. 15:4; 1 Cor. 13; Gal. 6:1; Eph. 4:15; 5:9).
- My speech is often without bitterness, anger, wrath, yelling, slander or malice (Psa. 10:7; 64:2-4; Eph. 4:29-32).
- When I speak, it is often gracious, courteous, helpful, tender, sympathetic, forgiving (Eph. 4:29-32).
- My speech serves grace to others and is helpful for the moment (Eph. 4:29).
- My speech is gracious, so that it can be readily received and preserved (Col. 4:6).
- I speak appropriately and with straight-forwardness (Matt. 5:37).
- Exhorting and encouraging one another?(Heb. 3:13; 10:24-25; 1 Thess. 4:18; 5:11).
- By teaching one another? (Deut. 6:4-9; Col. 3:16; Heb. 5:11-14).
- By admonishing one another?(Rom. 15:14; 1 Cor. 10:11; Eph. 6:4; Col. 1:28; 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:12, 14; 2 Thess. 3:15; Titus 3:10).
- Building up one another?(Acts 20:32; Rom. 14:19; 15:2; 1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 4:12-13; 1 Thess. 5:11).
- My words at times are firm, but diplomatic even when correcting opponents (Gal. 6:1; 2 Tim. 2:23-25).
- I often pray that God would deliver me from an evil tongue (Psa. 120:2).