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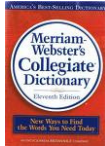


Communicate Much?

Hebrews 13:16: (KJV) *But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

After talking about complaining last week, it makes sense to look at the flip side - how to communicate - for good and positive reasons that is! What makes a great communicator? Is it charisma? Is it your words? Your message? What about body language? Where does passion fit? What made Jesus such a master at drawing people? Does the Bible define communication the same way we do today?

What do we envision when we talk about communication?



com·mu·ni·cate verb

1: share

2a: to convey knowledge of or information about: make known <communicate a story>

2b: to reveal by clear signs <his fear communicated itself to his friends>

3: to cause to pass from one to another <some diseases are easily communicated>

Our culture has tweaked and developed the definition of communication to be a deep and penetrating life experience. We see communication as an art to be accomplished on both the giving and receiving sides of the issue.



Our six-year old not listening, *Everybody Loves Raymond* (television show)

- (Raymond and Deborah in a classroom on how to communicate better with their children) Deborah: We have a six-year old daughter and she's a great kid, but she's having trouble listening and she is very stubborn lately.
- Raymond: She's just a kid. That's a phase, right?
- Teacher: Well, this is a perfect opportunity for you to try some 'active listening!'
- Raymond: Thank you, we'll try that.
- Deborah: Active listening? I'm not familiar with that.
- Teacher: It's encouraging your child to communicate verbally without influencing her with your own preconceived notions or opinions.
- Raymond: Got it. Here we go.

Let's look at a good example of Biblical communication as the Apostle Paul teaches us.

The text begins its communication by stating the context of a Christian's life:

Hebrews 10:21-25: (KJV) ²¹And having an high priest over the house of God; (Jesus) ²²Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. (It continues with the responsibility we have to ourselves) ²³Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) (And concludes with our communication responsibility to our brothers and sisters) ²⁴And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

The Apostle Paul was a great communicator, both oral and written. You can have the greatest message in the world, but if it can't be communicated properly, it is just a bunch of words. We also are to stimulate the brotherhood to good things.

What lessons can we learn about communication for this next sound-byte?



Airplane pilot with communication problems, trying to explain to passengers

- Pilot: We are still sitting here; we still have the problem but the tower is speaking mainly Spanish and I'm speaking mainly English. My Spanish is not good enough to find out what the problem is and the English of the tower isn't good enough to tell me where the problem exactly is. Um, so I can't really tell you what the problem is. I asked Frankfurt to send a second flight plan...but that did not help. So I have no idea what the problem is but I can assure you we are working on the problem and deferring to some whatever the problem here is, which is hard because we don't know where the problem lies.



Observations so far:

You need to understand the language being spoken. This applies to men and women trying to communicate as well!

- The relaying of an inconclusive message is always an inconclusive message.
- The desire to inform is not enough to accomplish the mission of informing.
- For a leader to come across as uninformed but sincere can be humorous, but it does NOT build confidence.

Matthew 5:37: Our communication should be as firm and positive as can be. How do we do that?

How Does the Bible describe communication?



Reflecting feelings, *Everybody Loves Raymond* (television show)

Ray is roll playing with the teacher playing the part of his daughter, who does not want to go to her grandmother's birthday party. Ray is trying to learn how to better communicate with his six-year old.

- *Teacher: Ray, if I say to you, "I hate when you make me do things," perhaps you could acknowledge my feelings by saying something like, "You feel that you don't have any control over our plans." Understand?*
- *Ray: That doesn't sound like something I would say.*
- *Teacher: Come on, let's keep going.*
- *Ray: (begrudgingly) Yeh, let's.*
- *Teacher: "All my friends are going to the park, but I have to go to some boring party?!"*
- *Ray: You think that the party is going to be boring?*
- *Teacher: That's it, Ray. See, you are reflecting her feelings back. "It's just a bunch of grownups sitting around an old house. I wanna be with my friends!"*
- *Ray: Uh, but Grandma has that big bowl of coffee nips!*

How do we get better with communication so we can really be effective?

The Bible does not seem to talk about communicating in the way that we often refer to it - from the standpoint of understanding feelings - it does however, give a number of examples of communicating through co-laboring, and through common cause. The only words translated "communicate" in the Bible are along these lines.

These next words are all VERY similar but deal more with actions between us and not necessarily words. Communication scripturally is more that we are headed down a common path.

Communicate: Strong's #2841 koinoneo (koy-no-neh'-o); *to share with others* (objectively or subjectively)

Galatians 6:6: Let him that is taught in the word **communicate <2841>** unto him that teacheth in all good things.

Communicate: Strong's #2842 koinonia (koy-nohn-ee'-ah); partnership

Romans 15:26: For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain **contribution <2842>** for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

Communicate: Strong's #2843: koinonikos (koy-no-nee-kos'); communicative, i.e. liberal

Only use: 1 Timothy 6:18: That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to **communicate <2843>**; (willing to be charitable, giving to others to support them in a common cause)

All of these words carry the sense of participation in another's life and not merely contributing input to it. They seem to imply an understanding - a sense of "being on the same page."

Taking a Biblical approach to "communicating," to being deeply engaged in one another's life, we note that many of the Scriptures become easy to categorize:

WASH ONE ANOTHER'S FEET: SERVE ONE ANOTHER WITH HUMILITY John 13:14

Galatians 5:13-15 **LOVE ONE ANOTHER** Our ability to communicate will magnify if it is done with love. John 15:12-13 Romans 13:8 1 Peter 1:22



Name three important suggestions regarding communication!

1. Communicate in CONTEXT:



Listen in context, *Ameriquest commercial*

The following commercial takes place in a store. The man speaking is on his cell phone talking to a friend as he walks up to the check-out counter. The clerk's back is turned to him, so he is not aware of the phone conversation.

- How much are they asking? Well, that's a lot of money for a deck! I hate to tell you this, but you're getting robbed. Did you hear me? You're getting robbed!*
- (Struggle ensues as the clerk pulls out a taser, reacting to the threat to "getting robbed.")*

UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER Romans 14:1-6: We are to have respect for one another's preferences while we serve God.

DO NOT JUDGE ONE ANOTHER Romans 14:13: We need to be careful when feeling resentment towards someone. Remember, Christ paid for their sin as well as our own.

2. Communicate with THOUGHTFULNESS:



Because I said so, *Everybody Loves Raymond (television show)*

- Teacher role-playing as Ray's daughter: "I don't care! And you can't make me!"*
- Ray: What are you doing?*
- Teacher (sits down angrily): "You can't make me."*
- Ray: Please get up.*
- Teacher: "Why do I have to go?"*
- Ray: (whining) I don't know.*
- Teacher: "But WHY?"*
- Ray: Because I said so! (smirks) That was big when I was a kid! Mommy said you have to go!*
- Teacher: Keep mommy out of it, Ray.*
- Ray: Look, you better get up or...*
- Teacher: "Or WHAT?"*
- Ray: Or no more TV!*
- Deborah his wife: No, Ray...*
- Ray: ...no? Okaaaay...or you're going to boarding school.*
- Teacher: Do you always threaten?*
- Ray: No. No, sometimes she (motions to Deborah) yells.*

Such haplessness trying to communicate in a meaningful way!

ADMONISH ONE ANOTHER Romans 15:14: We have a responsibility in making sure that we are doing the right kinds of things in the right kind of way and contributing to the lives of others.
Colossians 4:2-6

3. Communicate with PURPOSE:

1. The imparting or giving of that which is to be communicated
2. The hearing or receiving of that which is communicated
3. The grasping or understanding of that which is communicated, as shown by the ability to feed it back to the communicator

There are circumstances in life where our communication may fall on deaf ears. So what do we do? We still continue to communicate. Remember Stephen when he was getting stoned to death? He continued to communicate the goodness of God's work and the vision he had seen. He continued to explain to them how high the calling of Christ was and how low their actions were. They stoned him anyway! But his communication was according to God's will, so it was successful.



Finding peoples' values, *Dr. John Demartini, The Circle (Australian TV program)*

- Everybody lives by a set of priorities, a set of values in their life. Whenever they are living by their highest priorities and values, they have more fulfillment. Whenever they communicate to other people in their highest values, there is greater communication. Sometimes we tend to project ourselves down on*



people, talk down to them, and project our expectations onto them. We have these "alternating monologues" instead of communicating what's important to us to what is important to them.

BE KINDLY AFFECTIONED TO ONE ANOTHER Romans 12:9-13 **BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS** Galatians 6:1-5: We have to be humble enough to help one another pick up the weights of life. Humility is so important with communication.

🔊 **Values are fingerprint specific, Dr. John Demartini, *The Circle* (Australian TV program)**

- *Aren't we all on the same page these days? We all want shelter, happiness and love? Those are all true but each person has a unique set of values. They are fingerprint specific. Some are really dedicated to their education; some are more dedicated to their spiritual quest; some are into business or wealth or fitness. Whatever is highest on their list is their identity. They revolve their life around it. Honoring that and caring about that is the secret to communication and a great relationship.*

CONSIDER AND (POSITIVELY) PROVOKE ONE ANOTHER Hebrews 10:23-25: To know your brother is the only way to truly communicate with him. When we appreciate the values of someone else, we are able to positively provoke them. If you don't know what someone stands for, you may not be able to determine that you are poking them and not provoking them. With our words, there are many parts - why and how are they spoken? What is spoken? When, where and to whom are they spoken? James 3:2-12: Our life will often reveal its contradictions in the words that we speak. We can't bless and curse men. **TEACH AND ADMONISH ONE ANOTHER** Colossians 3:16 Hebrews 3:13 Hebrews 10:25:

How do I become a better communicator right now?

Be **OBSERVANT** in your communication. Peter, James and John's observation: Galatians 2:9 **KNOW YOURSELF** and **KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE** in your communication. Apostle Paul carefully dealing with the Hebrew Christians: Hebrews 10:21-25

🔊 **Values fill your space, Dr. John Demartini, *The Circle* (Australian TV program)**

- *Your life demonstrates your values. If we look at how people fill their space, things that are not important to them are trashed and they run away from them. But things that are really important to them, they keep around them. Look at how they spend their time - they always make time for things that are truly important to them. What energizes them? When you are doing what you love to do, you are energized and have more energy at the end of the day than when you start. How do they spend their money? This has a lot to do with what your values are, because you will invest money in the things that are important to you.*

Be **PRAYERFUL** in your communication. Philippians 1:3-5: The Apostle Paul thanked God every time he remembered the Philippians. What a sense of understanding he had for the values of those that lived in Philippi. Think of how they would have felt hearing those words from him. They would know how important they were to him. Be **WISE** in your communication. Paul carefully dealt with the issue of a runaway slave: Philemon 1:4-7: Paul treated Philemon with great respect. Be **HUMBLE** in your communication. Hebrews 13:15-17: If we are continually praising God in our communications, we have no time to be praising ourselves. This keeps us humble, enabling us to be better communicators in everything we do. Show others that you love them by what you do as well as what you say. **Know the power of communication and use it with all of your heart!** 1 Corinthians 9:20-22

*So do people really listen when you speak...?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*