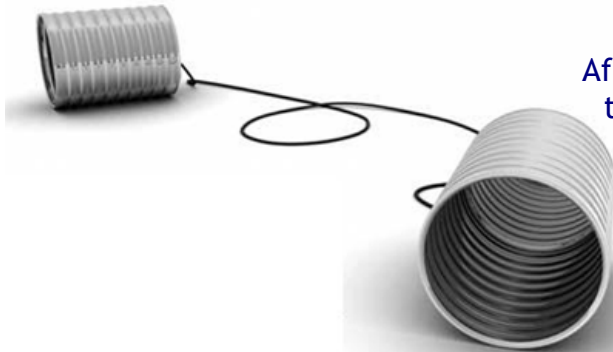




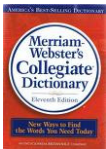
Communicate Much?

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: Let your statement be, 'Yes, Yes' or No, no' and anything beyond these is of evil.

Our communication should be as firm and positive as can be. How do we do that?



How Does the Bible describe communication?

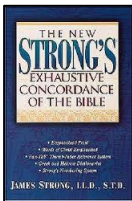
Reflecting feelings, *Everybody Loves Raymond* (television show)
Ray is roll playing with the teacher playing the part of his daughter, who does not want to go to her grandmother's birthday party. Ray is trying to learn how to better communicate with his six-year old.

- *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: Strongs #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: Strongs #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: Strongs #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."



A caller suggested that if you are not arrogant, you are not only more likely to be heard but to hear.



Let's look at verbal communication in the 21st century as we investigate the Biblical as well:

1 and 2 of 5 dials, Body Language and Vocal Power Tips, *Kathy McAfee*

- *I like to think there are five dials on your "vocal dashboard." Dial 1: Tone - your pitch, high or low. We all have a range. Sometimes if you are a singer, you have a really big range but all of us have a range. Dial 2: Tempo - are you a fast talker or a slow talker? You can speed it up, you can slow it down. Particularly in presentations, you want to slow it down 20-25% versus your normal conversational speed.*

We do have some control over our vocal presentation, so this can help us communicate.

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:



John 13:14: (NASB) *If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.*

Galatians 5:13-15: (NASB) ¹³*For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.* ¹⁴*For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* ¹⁵*But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.*

John 15:12-13: (NASB) ¹²*This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.* ¹³*Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.*

Romans 13:8: (NASB) *Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.*

1 Peter 1:22: (NASB) *Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart...*




Our ability to communicate will magnify if it is done with love.



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.")*

Romans 14:1-6: (NASB) ¹Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. ²One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. ³The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. ⁴Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.



We are to have respect for one another's preferences while we serve God.



Romans 14:13: (NASB) *Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.*

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!

Romans 15:14: (NASB) *And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.*

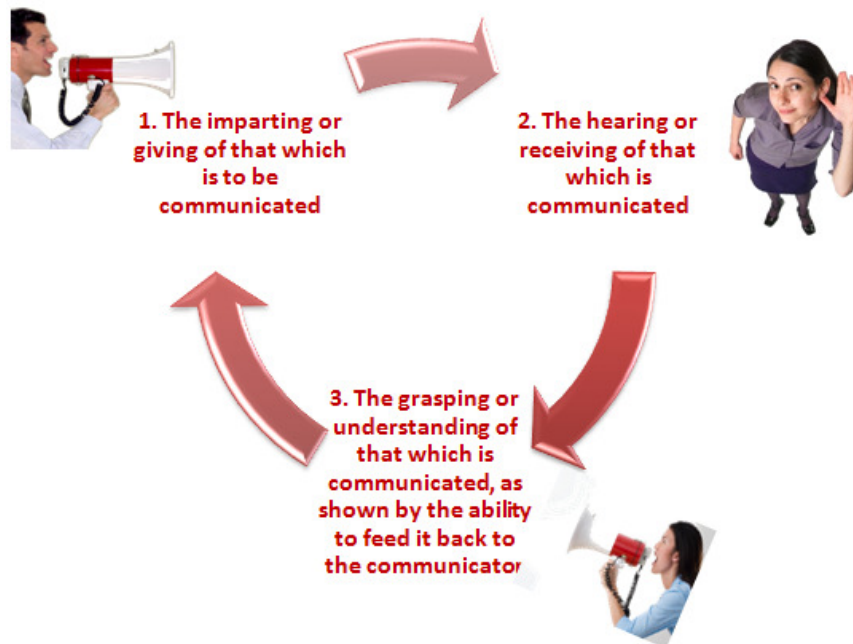
We have a responsibility in making sure that we are doing the right kinds of things in the right kind of way and contributing to the lives of others.

Colossians 4:2-6: (NASB) ²*Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;* ³*praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;* ⁴*that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.* ⁵*Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.* ⁶*Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.*





3. Communicate with PURPOSE:



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.

What are some other Biblically-based approaches to communication?

 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.*



Romans 12:9-13: (NASB) ⁹Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; ¹¹not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹²rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, ¹³contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.



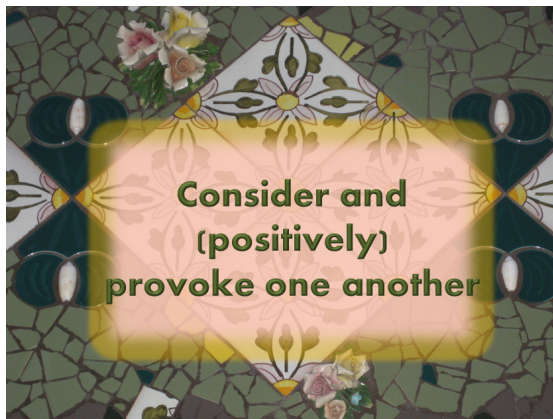
Galatians 6:1-5: (NASB) ¹Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. ⁵For each one will bear his own load.



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.*



Hebrews 10:23-25: (NASB) ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

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.



What about the power of words?

What is written on the sticky note that Rick keeps in his office? (He doesn't remember the source.)

Communication is:
55% body language,
38% tonality and
7% words.



(This certainly means a challenge for the radio!)

Now, just because words are only 7% of our communication does not mean that they carry only 7% of the weight of communicating - a significant portion of our body language (55%) and tonality (38%) are built around our words!

 3 of 5 dials, Body Language and Vocal Power Tips, Kathy McAfee

- *So you have tone, tempo and now timber, which is the quality of your voice. Do you speak clear as a bell? When you say the word "important," do you hear the "t" or not? Does your voice have texture? Do you have a radio voice? If you have a cold, there is texture. Sometimes you want to be clear as a bell, so that is the "timber" knob on your vocal dashboard.*

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: (NASB) ²For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. ³Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. ⁴Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. ⁵So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things.

This is an interesting parallel - the smallness of the tongue and the 7% of communication by words on the sticky note. The tongue is small but potent - for good or ill!

See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell (gehenna). ⁷For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. ⁸But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; ¹⁰from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. ¹¹Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.



Our life will often reveal its contradictions in the words that we speak. We can't bless and curse men.

4 and 5 dials, Body Language and Vocal Power Tips, Kathy McAfee

- *Dial 4 - Volume - there are times I want to raise my voice and times I want to lower my voice.*
- *Dial 5 - The Mute Button - silence can be very powerful!*



Colossians 3:16: (NASB) *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

Hebrews 3:13: (NASB) *But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

Hebrews 10:25: (NASB) *not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

How do I become a better communicator right now?

Be **OBSERVANT** in your communication.

Peter, James and John's observation:

Galatians 2:9: *And when James, Peter, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of **fellowship** <2842>; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.*

KNOW YOURSELF and **KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE** in your communication.

Apostle Paul carefully dealing with the Hebrew Christians:

Hebrews 10:21-25: (KJV) ²¹*And having an high priest over the house of God;* ²²*Let 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.* ²³*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)* ²⁴*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:* ²⁵*Not 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.*



A caller suggested: Ephesians 4:29: *No foul language shall come out of your mouths, but only such as may impart grace to those who hear. The Christian is a child of God speaking to another child of God. This reality transforms every moment.*

Speaker icon) **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: (NRSV) ³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your **sharing <2842>** in the gospel from the first day until now.

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: (NRSV) ⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the **sharing <2842>** of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

Paul treated Philemon with great respect.

Be HUMBLE in your communication.

Hebrews 13:15-17: (KJV) ¹⁵By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. ¹⁶But to do good and to **communicate <2842>** forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. ¹⁷Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

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: (NASB) ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; ²¹to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.

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

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*





Romans 15:7: *Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.*



Romans 16:16: *Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.*

1 Corinthians 16:20: *All the brethren greet you. Greet ye one another with an holy kiss.*

2 Corinthians 13:12: *Greet one another with an holy kiss.*

1 Peter 5:14: *Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.*



Ephesians 4:2: *With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;*

Ephesians 4:32: *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

Colossians 3:13: *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*



1 Thessalonians 4:18: *Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11: *Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

A few more ways to become a better communicator right now:

Be BOLD, TRUTHFUL and CLEAR in your communication:

Matthew 5:33-37: (NRSV) ³³Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord. ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.



Be FOCUSED, COMPASSIONATE and SINCERE in your communication:

Ephesians 4:25-32: (NRSV) ²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

LISTENING? by Doug Firebaugh

Less is More. What does that mean?

Less talking is more powerful, as you increase your arsenal to succeed and win...and expand your bullets to hit the victory bullseye...through the incredible power of... Listening.

Do you realize listening is a power that can be exercised and tapped into; and with it, you can change lives...including your own?

My mentor taught me, "Doug...listening is the million dollar skill. Master it, and you have mastered the power core of communication, connection, and caring...found in the heart of success." If you study great leaders, most were great listeners, and learned from it.

Who do you know that is a great leader in business or your community? If you study them, study their listening habits.

When you listen next time with someone...give 100% attention and don't let anything distract you.

Remember, this is their time with you...respect it. Lock onto not just the moment, but the message within the moment.

REALLY listen and you will be surprised what you hear that you've missed before.

"It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt."
— Mark Twain

