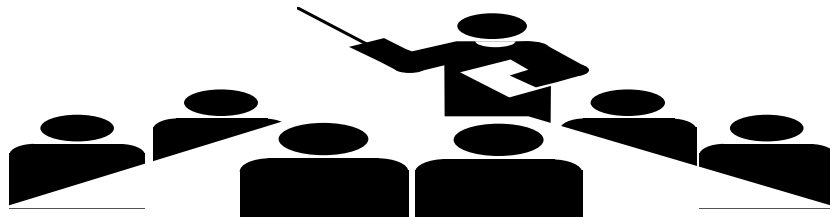


BIBLE STUDY SERIES



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Christ-like Communication

BIBLE STUDY

CHRIST-LIKE COMMUNICATION

Rev. Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

LESSON # 1: UNDERSTANDING COMMUNICATION

Scripture Lesson: James 3: 1-12

Key Verse: James 1: 26

PROPOSITION: The quality of one's life depends upon the quality of one's relationships and the quality of one's relationships depends upon the quality of one's communication.

I. The Nature of Communication:

DEFINITION: Communication is the process by which information is exchanged between individuals through a common system of symbols, signs or behavior.

- A. It is a two-way street involving speaking and listening. (James 1: 19)
- B. It is both verbal and non-verbal.
- C. It can be either corrupt or edifying. (Eph. 4: 29)

Corrupt Communication:

- 1. Deceit (Lying) (Pr. 6: 17, 19)
- 2. Gossip (Pr. 11: 13)
- 3. Sowing discord (Pr. 6: 19)
- 4. Faultfinding (Jude 16)
- 5. Quarrelling (Pr. 15: 1)

Edifying Communication

- Truthfulness (Eph. 4: 15, 25)
- Restraint (James 1: 19; 1 Pet. 3: 10)
- Seeking Reconciliation (Mt 5: 23, 24)
- Encouraging (2 Tim. 4: 2)
- Gentle words (Pr. 15: 1)

II. The Power of Communication:

- A. It has the power to initiate relationships.
- B. It has the power to maintain relationships.
- C. It has the power to enhance relationships.
- D. It has the power to destroy relationships. (Pr. 16: 28; James 3: 5-12)

III. The Importance of Communication:

- 1. It reveals who has understanding. (Proverbs 17: 27)
- 2. It reveals whose religion is worthwhile. (James 1: 26)
- 3. It reveals who is spiritually mature. (James 3: 2)

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LESSON # 2: THE FOUNTAIN OF COMMUNICATION

Scripture Lesson: Proverbs 4: 23, 24; Mark 7: 14-23; Matthew 12: 33-37

Key Verse: Matthew 12:35

PROPOSITION: The quality of one communication depends upon the condition of one's heart; speech reveals character.

I. The heart is the Fountain of Life.

- A. Proverbs 4: 23, 24
- B. Mark 7: 14-23
- C. Matthew 12: 33-35

II. The condition of the heart [one's character] determines the quality of one's speech.

- A. The righteous speak what is right because of the condition of their hearts. (Psalms 37: 30, 31)
- B. The wicked speak what is wrong because of the condition of their hearts. (Proverbs 10: 11, 18-21; 31, 32; 11: 9; 12: 6, 23)

III. Anger in its various forms can corrupt communication and must be handled properly with admission, forgiveness and release.

- A. Ephesians 4: 26-32
- B. 1 Peter 2: 1, 2

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LESSON # 3: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Scripture Lesson: Colossians 4: 3-5; Proverbs 23: 6-8

Key Verse: Ephesians 4: 15a

PROPOSITION: **Effective communication is a learned skill, which must be developed by awareness, consistency and honesty.**

I. Be aware of the complete message that we are presenting.

- A. Be aware that our thoughts are communicated by our words. [they are 70% of the total message]
- B. Be aware that our feelings are communicated in two ways:
 - 1. Our verbal communication
 - 2. Our nonverbal body language [facial expressions, gestures, eye contact, posture, dress, touching, physical closeness or distance, etc.] (55% of the total message)

II. Be consistent in our communication. [Mixed messages can confuse or deceive.] (Proverbs 23: 6-8)

- A. Clarify our thoughts.
- B. Be in-touch with our true feelings. [Failure to do so has its dangers and can keep you from being real]
 - 1. It can destroy spiritual and personal growth. (Psalms 51: 6)
 - 2. It can destroy personal relationships.
 - 3. It can destroy mental and physical health.
 - 4. It can destroy effective communication.
- C. Head (thoughts) and heart (feelings) must be sending out the same messages in order for communication to be believable and effective.

III. Be honest but not cruel [speak the truth in love] (Eph. 4: 15a)

- A. “Speak”: Keep the lines of communication open!
- B. “Speak the truth”:
 - 1. Express our genuine thoughts and true feelings in spite of the hindrances:
 - a. Fear of public pressure
 - b. Fear of being known (James 5: 16)
 - c. Fear of rejection
 - d. Fear of God
 - e. Fear of parents
 - 2. Express our genuine thoughts and true feelings without blaming or condemning others.
 - a. “I feel angry,” not “you made me angry.”
 - b. “I feel depressed,” not “You depress me.”
- C. “Speak the truth in love:” Higher than the law of honesty is the law of love.