

WE HAVE THIS

**HOPE**

AS AN

**ANCHOR**

FOR OUR SOULS

**FIRM & SECURE.**

-HEBREWS 6:19

# The Mouth of Christ

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# The what...?

## The hands and feet of Christ

Romans 10:15 - And how are they to preach unless they are sent?  
As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

1 Corinthians 12:27 - Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

# Overview

- Biblical Guidelines
- Skill - STATE Your Path
- Practice

# HOW TO TALK LIKE A CHRISTIAN



# Biblical Guidelines

- Build up one another
- Speak truth
- Speak no evil
- Teach each other
- Don't complain

# Biblical Guidelines – Build Up

1 Thes 5:11 - Therefore **encourage one another and build one another up**, just as you are doing.

Hebrews 10:24 - And let us consider how to **stir up one another to love and good works**

Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but **only such as is good for building up**, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

# Biblical Guidelines – Speak Truth

Col 3:9 - Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices

I Peter 3:10 - For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.”

Ephesians 4:15 - Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ

Proverbs 12:19 - Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

# Biblical Guidelines – Speak No Evil

James 4:11a - **Do not speak evil** against one another, brothers.

1 Peter 3:10 - For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must **keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.**”

Titus 3:1-2 - Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, **to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling**, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

# Biblical Guidelines – Teach

Col 3:16a - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom...

2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness

Matthew 28:20 - teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”



# Biblical Guidelines – Don't Complain

James 5:9 - **Do not grumble** against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

Philippians 2:14 - Do all things **without grumbling** or questioning

1 Peter 4:9 - Show hospitality to one another **without grumbling**.

# Why is it Important?

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Matthew 12:35-37



# Skill to Use - STATE

- Think of a high stakes, high tension conversation you would like to have
- Write down what you would say if there were no consequences to saying it

# Skill to Use - STATE

*Crucial Conversations* by Patterson, Grenny, McMillan, Switzler

- Share your facts
- Tell your story
- Ask for their paths
- Talk Tentatively
- Encourage others to speak up

# STATE – Share your facts

- Strip things down to the facts
  - What did you see and/or hear
  - How did this differ from your expectations?
  - Avoid emotional shading of the facts
  - Aim for mutually agreed facts

# STATE – Share your facts

Facts which at first seem improbable will even on scant explanation drop the cloak which has hidden them and stand forth in naked and simple beauty.

Galileo Galilei

# STATE – Tell Your Story

Then, share how you interpreted the facts

- Your perceptions
- Why are the facts a concern to you?

Any set of facts can be used to tell an infinite number of stories.

- Crucial Conversations

# STATE – Ask for Their Paths

Finally, ask for their thoughts

- What was their path to action? Their feelings?
- Ensure this is open and encourages discussion
- Don't use closed questions
- Be humble and open to change your “story”

# STATE – Ask for Their Paths

To keep ourselves from feeling nervous while exploring others' paths...remember we're trying to understand their point of view, not necessarily agree with it.

- Crucial Conversations

# STATE – Talk Tentatively

Be open and curious, not wimpy

- Ensure your stories don't come across as fact
- Don't be closed to being wrong
- Avoid absolutes

# STATE – Encourage Others to Speak Up

Sincerely seek other's opinions

- The larger the pool of information shared, the better
- Keep it safe for others to share

Our only limit to how strongly we can express our opinion is our willingness to be equally vigorous in encouraging others to challenge it.

- Crucial Conversations

# STATE – Your Turn

## Your Crucial Conversation

- State your facts
- Tell your story
- Ask for their paths
- Talk tentatively
- Encourage others to speak up

# Conclusion

By swallowing evil words unsaid, no one has ever harmed his stomach.

—Winston Churchill

# References

Patterson, Kerry,eds. **Crucial Conversations: Tools For Talking When Stakes Are High.** New York : McGraw-Hill, 2012.

# Questions?

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