



Go for God!

“COMMUNICATION: Four Keys to a Great Relationship!”

James Ch. 3:1-12

> KEY #1 - (v1-2) HAVE THE RIGHT HEART FOR COMMUNICATION!

(v1) *“Let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive stricter judgment.”*

(v2) *“If you do not stumble in word you are a mature person.” - Jesus said in Matthew 12:34-37 -*

For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 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.”

- Proverbs 16:21- The wise in heart will be called prudent, and sweetness of the lips increases learning.

- Proverbs 16:23- The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips.

- Proverbs 15:28- The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.

> KEY #2 – (v3-6) COMMUNICATE BY LISTENING!

~ **Observe the communication illustrations:**

(v3) What kind of horse are you? A bucking bronco or a controlled ride?

(v4) What kind of ship are you? The Titanic or a Celebrity Cruise Ship?

(v5) How do you take care of Nature? Are you an arsonist or a firefighter?

~ **Listen and embrace wise advice:**

- Proverbs 13:10- By pride comes nothing but strife, but with the well-advised is wisdom.

- Proverbs 15:32-33- He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding. The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility.

- Proverbs 18:13- He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him

- James 1:19-20- So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

- Ephesians 4:26-28- "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.

- It's time to contemplate Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

> KEY #3 - (v7-12) HAVE THE RIGHT VOICE FOR COMMUNICATION!

(v9-10) Are you a blessing or a cursing? _____

(v11) Is your communication bitter (salty) or fresh? _____

(v12) Are you a Christian or not? _____

- **What about our non-verbal communication?** - The mean face with stink eye! The pointing finger of intimidation! The rolling of the eyes, saying, “You are dumb and dumber combined!”

- Daily change the verbal communication:

From *criticisms* to *complements!*

From *degrading* to *uplifting!*

From *negative* to *positive!*

From *cynical* to *comical!*

From *gossip* to *good news!*

From *sarcasm* (implies an intentional inflicting of pain by deriding, taunting, or ridiculing) to *supercallafragilisticexpialidocious!*

- **Psalms 34:13-** *Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.*

- **Proverbs 16:24-** *Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.*

- **Proverbs 15:1-2-** *A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.*

- **Proverbs 31:26-** *She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.*

- **Ephesians 4:29-** *Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*

- **Colossians 4:6-** *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

- **Ephesians 4:15-16-** *speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ*

> KEY #4 – COMMUNICATE! COMMUNICATE! COMMUNICATE!

- **Practical times to communicate:** Go for a walk after dinner; make a family meeting night (share grins, groans & goal setting).

- **Practical ways to communicate:** Write things down. To do lists (commonly called “honey do”).

- **Personal (romantic) communication-** Read **Song of Solomon** (sample: Ch. 7:1-5)

~ **THE LAST WORD:** *A careless word may kindle strife;*

A cruel word may wreck a life.

A bitter word may hate instill;

A brutal word may smite and kill.

A gracious word may smooth the way;

A joyous word may light the day.

A timely word may lessen stress;

A loving word may heal and bless.