

## Godly Communication Part 1.

Communication is one of the greatest gifts God has given humanity. It allows us to know God and one another in ways that would be impossible without it. Without communication, we could not transfer knowledge of any kind.

Though communication has many benefits, it has also been perverted by sin. What God intended as a blessing is often used instead as a tool of manipulation and destruction.

Because words are so powerful, it is important that we learn how God directs us to use words and communication to make a positive, eternal impact on the people He places around us—and to understand what He expects of us when we fall short.

*Ephesians 4:14–15 says, “that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine (Instruction), by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—”*

What are we warned about in this passage?

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What is the motive we are to have in speaking to others?

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Matthew 12:36–37,

*“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.”*

What does this verse teach us about being careful with our words?

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James 3:2 *“For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.”*

What specific areas of your life do you need to work on to grow in godly communication?

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1 John 1:9

*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

As James reminds us, we all stumble in our words. Take time to write out the specific areas where you’ve struggled in what you say, and ask God both for forgiveness and for His help to grow in these areas.

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Matthew 18:15–17

*“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.”*

In your own words, write out the three-step process Jesus gives here.

Step 1.

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Step 2.

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Step 3.

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Are there any specific situations or relationships you need to apply this to in your life at the moment?

Yes\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

If yes, write out a prayer committing yourself to walk in obedience and to go to your brother or sister in love.

Prayer

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Matthew 5:23–24

*“Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”*

What is the command given in this verse?

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Do you currently have a brother or sister in Christ whom you know is offended or holding onto something between the two of you?

If so, write a prayer of commitment to go to them, to push them toward God, and to strive towards healing.

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Luke 17:3-4

*“Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.”*

What do these verses teach us about the importance of forgiveness?

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Read James chapter 3.

What are some warnings about bitterness?

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In verses 13-18, James contrasts worldly wisdom and Godly Wisdom.

God is not interested in simply changing our behavior, but the way we think, measuring things back to God and His Word instead of ourselves, temporary things, our own desires, or wisdom.

How can you work to implement Godly wisdom into your relationships and conversations?

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James 4:11

*“Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.”*

When should we refrain from speaking?

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In our society, it is common for people to sit around and complain about those who are not present, but the Bible gives a strong warning against this.

James 5:9

*“Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!”*

What is the warning you see in this verse?

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God want us to be peacemakers in the body (Matthew 5:9), to be bonded together in love (Col 3:14).

It's not about appearance.

He wants us to genuinely love each other and seek each other's well-being.

Proverbs 26:24 says,

*“People may cover their hatred with pleasant words, but they’re deceiving you.” (NLT)*

If you’re holding bitterness, anger, or hurt in your heart, ask God to help you genuinely love that person and to use you to point them to Him. Remember the grace God has given you and the price He paid for the person you’re struggling with.

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God is wonderful and gracious in teaching us to communicate in ways that continually point one another back to Him.

If we learn to communicate God’s way, it is a blessing for us, our families, our church, friends, and community.

Write a prayer below asking God to help you grow in godly communication, and commit to being accountable to communicate God’s way.

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*“Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” (Luke 9:23, NKJV)*

To communicate God’s way, we must die to doing it our own way and from using words for our own selfish interest.

In what areas of your communication do you need to die to yourself—whether in anger, fear, selfishness, silence, or something else—and surrender it to God so you can communicate His way?

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*“But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68, NKJV)*

God’s words are wonderful; they bring life!

Write three ways you can speak words God’s way, to help others grow in Christ’s likeness.

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

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