

#Issues
The Stuff We All Face
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INTRODUCTION:

A. Let's face it - we ALL have problems! We can mask and hide them through Instagram filters, Facebook posts and statuses, YouTube videos, and even in person with our friends and family - but no one can deny we all have one thing in common... #issues.

B. Our #issues can drive us to worry, fret, finagle, and depend on our own wits and abilities. However, God desires us to take our problems to Him, rest in Him, and watch Him work through us and in spite of our problems. We must focus on what matters most, so God can use our #issues and develop us to become great Kingdom warriors for Him.

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

C. In this series, we will look at 5 #issues we all face.

February 10	Time Issues
February 17	Money Issues
February 24	Conflict Issues
TODAY	Communication Issues
March 10	Technology Issues

D. TEXT: Ephesians 5:4-14 (4, 6, 12) (New Test.)

Today's Takeaway:

**Where there's slack in communication,
there's lack in the relationship.**

“Speak clearly, if you speak at all; carve every word before you let it fall.”
~ Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. (1809-1894)

WEEK #4: COMMUNICATION ISSUES

I. GOOD COMMUNICATION MUST BE A _____

Poor communication leads to #issues in many areas. We need to make communication a priority so that...

A. We stay _____ to one another.

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."
Proverbs 18:21

B. _____ will be resolved.

“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.” Matthew 18:15

C. _____ goes away.

“For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. ⁴⁰ Let all things be done decently and in order.” I Corinthians 14:33, 40

D. _____ will become clear.

“I hate the double-minded, but I love Your law.” Psalm 119:113

II. GOOD COMMUNICATION MUST BE _____

A. _____ about your words.

“Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips.” Psalm 141:3

B. Understand that God gave _____ and _____ different conversation styles.

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Genesis 1:27

C. Seek to _____, not just be understood.

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

Philippians 2:3-4

D. Don't _____.

“In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.” Proverbs 10:19

E. _____ up but be clear.

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

F. Speak _____ into your family.

“Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” Ephesians 5:33-6:1

III. GOOD COMMUNICATION IS A _____

A. Communicating with one another is a _____ process.

Specialists point out that there are _____ messages that can come through when you communicate.

1. What you _____ to say.
2. What you _____ say.
3. What the other person _____.
4. What the other person _____ they hear.
5. What the other person _____ about what you said.
6. What you _____ the other person says about what you said.

The result, often, is a _____.

“For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile. I Peter 3:10

B. Good communication is a _____ practice.

1. _____ Clearly ~ Before words come out of your mouth:

a. Is it both _____ and _____?

“but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.”

Ephesians

4:15

b. Is it the best _____ to say it?

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.”

Proverbs 25:11

c. Is it the right _____ to say it?

“A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word spoken in due season, how good it is!”

Proverbs 15:23

2. _____ Carefully ~ When words come out of other’s mouths:

a. Good listening means little _____.

“He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.”

Proverbs

18:13

b. Good listening means giving undivided _____.

“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;”

James

1:19

c. Good listening means clarifying _____.

“Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.”

Proverbs 20:5

CONCLUSION: Is a slack in your communication causing lack in your relationships? What steps do you need to take to change that?