

RIGHTEOUS COMMUNICATION

A self-absorbed person is a poor listener. He is either opinionated based on the arrogance of self-importance or on the arrogance of unworthy of any opinion. He uses voice infliction and words to manipulate and control others either by sweet flattery or by harsh and derogatory words.

“They speak falsehood to one another; with flattering lips and with double heart they speak.” (Psa.12:2)

“A lying tongue hates those it crushes, and a flattering mouth works ruin.” (Prov.26:28)

Observation: It is my opinion, after many years of ministry that righteous communication has become a lost skill within Christianity in this 21st century.

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| This lesson will study FOUR aspects of Righteous Communication according to James 1:19-21. |
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1. James 1:19 explains three skills necessary for righteous communication.

- Swift to hear (tachus eis to akouo/ a.a.infin)
- Slow to speak (bradus eis to laleo/ a.a.infin)
- Slow to anger (bradus eis orge)

"{This} you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak {and} slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and {all} that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls." (James 1:19-21)

James gave two positives and one negative to righteous communication. *Write the two positives on the blank lines and circle the one negative* _____ and _____.

We must learn how to get things off our chest without attacking people or jeopardizing relationships.

Jesus set an example for righteous (+R) communication in 1 Pet.2:21-24.

We must learn to talk it out without taking it out on others. Therefore James advice is SWIFT TO HEAR, SLOW TO SPEAK, and SLOW TO ANGER. Chinese proverb, “It is better to light candles than to curse darkness.”

2. According to James 1:20, anger is a great hindrance to righteous communication –“For the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.”

As a sin, anger can hinder righteous (+R) communication in at least three ways:

- **As a sin of the tongue**, angry words come across as attacking the person more than the problem. Therefore James is encouraging believers to communicate better rather than bitter.

James is encouraging believers to say things (righteous +R communication) that pull together rather than push apart.

“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.” (Eph.4:29)

- **As a mental attitude sin**, anger causes us to project hostility rather than righteousness. It could be projected outwardly (sin of tongue: blame, accusation, name-calling, cursing, etc) or interjected inwardly (mental attitude sin: suppression, withdrawal, bottled it up, avoidance, denial, etc).

James is encouraging us to learn to communicate without causing more conflict, frustration, and emotional pain, for both individuals in the relationship.

“Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, but any fool will quarrel.” (Prov.20:3)

“The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.” (Prov.17:14)

Offensive words push us towards defensive postures resulting in our counter-attacking. It distracts us from working on the actual problem.

- **As an overt sin**, anger is produced to control the conversation and circumstances as well as the person it is directed towards.

“A fool’s lips brings strife, and his mouth calls for blows. A fool’s mouth is his ruin, and his lips are the snare of his soul.” (Prov.18:6-7)

“And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” (James 3:18)

3. **It is obvious that the more intimate two individuals become, in any relationship the more keenly aware they are of differences and flaws.**

Loving others without limits means living with other’s imperfections. “But now abides faith, hope, and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” (1 Cor.13:13)

Righteous (+R) communication will guard how as well as what we say. It will encourage us to talk positively with one another more than negatively at one another (James 1:19).

Righteous (+R) communication will help two people march in step together to the same cadence. We must be careful to not allow a disagreement in resolving a problem to become a disapproval of a person.

“He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from troubles.” (Prov.21:23)

“So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.” (Rom.14:19)

4. **James 1:21 explains that in order to get rid of an angry disposition, the believer must "lay aside" Old Man Belief Systems (OMCD) and "receive the engrafted word of God, which is able to deliver his soul and produce consistent righteous (+R) communication." (Prov.25:11-12).**

An anger disposition has developed into a pattern of life style of behavior and is a hindrance to +R communication.

- "Lay aside" (apothemi / a.m.ptc) (Eph.4:22) Put what off?
- "Dirty garment" (rhuphria) (James 2:2) or an abundance of evil (perisseia kakia) (1 Pet.3:21) Old Man Belief Systems (OMCD)
- "Receive" (dechomai / a.m.impv.2pl) "with meekness" (prautes / grace orientation to CWL) (Rom.8:28) "the engrafted word" (ton emphutos tos logos) (Matt.13:23; 1 Cor.3:6-7) i.e. Cycling Bible Doctrine through the faith system.
- "Which is able" (dunami / p.p.ptc) "to deliver" (sozo / a.a.infin) "your souls" (Rom.12:2; Eph.4:34; Col.3:10)