



guidelines for living

a 5 minute message

September 14, 2017

COMMUNICATION IN OUR TIMES

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Ephesians 4:25

In spite of how many words are written and how much verbiage fills the air, communicating accurately and clearly is one of our biggest needs today. At times it's tough to say what you really mean. That fact was illustrated by some of the comments an insurance adjuster collected from his accident reports. For example, one person wrote, "The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times in order to hit him." Another letter, one addressed to a government official, read, "I am sending you my marriage certificate and six children."

Some of the letters and emails which come to us broadcasters are descriptive but not completely accurate. One lady wrote, "You will never know what your programs have meant to my husband since he lost his mind." But the one that makes you stop and think is the letter which read, "Each one of your programs seems to be better than the next one" which would mean there was room for improvement!

A nun in a convent in the Philippines sent us an invitation to visit her. She told how she enjoyed hearing the commentary you are listening to right now and said, "We have a swimming pool so bring your swim suit with you, and if you don't have one, that's OK, too!"

Then there was the woman who was in Europe and she visited the diamond mart in Amsterdam. She found a beautiful diamond necklace but thought she had better touch base with her husband before she bought it. She texted him and ask if he approved. He immediately texted back, "No price too high!" The comma after the word "no," however, was missing! Actually he should have put an exclamation point meaning, "No! The price is too high." She interpreted his message as meaning, "No price is too high for you!" Undoubtedly there were some words spoken upon her return that are best not to print.

While all of us are born with non-verbal communication skills, to succeed you must learn to say precisely what you mean, and I am convinced that every person can learn to communicate. Why bother? Three reasons: 1. To relate to people, you have to know how to express the thoughts and feelings of your heart. The greatest single problem in



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marriage is our inability to communicate our thoughts and feelings. The reality is that it is more difficult for men to communicate than their wives. Women find it far easier to express themselves than their husbands. 2. To succeed in almost any field today demands the ability to communicate your ideas and concepts clearly and accurately. Communicating clearly and persuasively is absolutely necessary to succeed. 3. Then there is another powerful reason you need to know how to communicate if you are a Christian! To share your faith as a believer, you need to know how to express yourself. Prayer is a means of communicating with your Heavenly Father but unlike communicating with people, He always knows the intent of what you are saying, loves you, and understands.

Communication is not a matter of life and death; it's more important than that. Think about it!

Resource reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-4.