

Relationships

(A Mess Worth Making)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, March 5/6, 2016 Ray Davis

“Communication”

Healthy people create healthy relationships. There has never been a healthy relationship without healthy communication. There has never been an unhealthy relationship that didn't get that way in part because of unhealthy communication.

Psalm 139:23-24²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

Our Words Have the Power of Life and Death

Proverbs 12:18 There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

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

Our Word Problems Are Heart Problems

Luke 6:43-45⁴³ “For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit,⁴⁴ for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.⁴⁵ The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

- ✓ Harsh words come from an angry heart.
- ✓ Negative words come from a fearful heart.
- ✓ Overactive words come from an unsettled heart.
- ✓ Boasting words come from an insecure heart.
- ✓ Filthy words come from an impure heart.
- ✓ Critical words come from a bitter heart.

Proverbs 16:23 The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious and adds persuasiveness to his lips.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Words of Wisdom

James 3:13-18¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

If I want to be wise with my words...

- 1) I won't compromise my honesty. v17 Wisdom...is first pure...
- 2) I won't antagonize your anger. Wisdom is...then peaceable...
- 3) I won't minimize your feelings. Wisdom is...gentle...
- 4) I won't criticize your perspective. Wisdom is...open to reason...
- 5) I won't emphasize your faults. Wisdom is...full of mercy & good fruits...
- 6) I won't disguise my intentions. Wisdom is...impartial and sincere.

Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock & my redeemer.

Growing Notes

- 1) There has never been a healthy relationship without healthy communication. Explain. How would you define healthy communication?
- 2) How do our words have the power of life & death (Pro12:18, 18:21)? Our heart is our core commitments, the things we most fundamentally trust, love, hope in, and live for. How are word problems actually heart problems (Luke 6:43-45)?
- 3) Review the list of what our words produce. Which one(s) are you currently struggling with the most? What is the solution to our speech (Pro16:23) and heart problems (Pro9:10)? How will awe & intimacy with God (Fear of the Lord) transform our hearts and our words?
- 4) Read James 3:13-18. Review the six statements from this text (v17) that describe what our communication will look like if we are wise. Which one(s) are strengths & which one(s) are growth areas for you? Pray Ps.139:23-24, 19:14.