God's Design for Marriage

Communication – Part 2



Essential Communication – With God

How do you know if you are really communicating with God?

How do you know if God is really communicating with you?

What are warning signs that your communication with God is not healthy?

What are signs that your communication with God is healthy?



Essential Communication – With God

Isaiah 59:2

² But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

Proverbs 21:13

¹³ He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor Will also cry himself and not be answered.

Essential Communication – With God

Proverbs 1:28–29

²⁸ "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently but they will not find me,

²⁹ Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD.

Zechariah 7:13

¹³ "And just as He called and they would not listen, so they called and I would not listen," says the LORD of hosts;

Essential Communication – With God

Psalm 34:15

¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous And His ears are open to their cry.

Psalm 66:18–20

¹⁸ If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;

¹⁹ But certainly God has heard; He has given heed to the voice of my prayer.

²⁰ Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer Nor His lovingkindness from me.

Essential Communication – With God

Proverbs 15:8

⁸ The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

Proverbs 15:29

²⁹ The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

Essential Communication – With God

John 15:7

⁷ "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Psalm 1:2

² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

Philippians 4:6

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Essential Communication – With God

Psalm 25:4

⁴ Make me know Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths.

Psalm 139:23–24

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts;

²⁴ And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

Essential Communication – With God

1 John 1:9

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalm 32:5

⁵ I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.

Application

Healthy Communication Requires Effort!

What is your communication like with God?

How do you think He would describe your communication with Him?

Where will you work to improve your communication with God this week?



Why can communication be so difficult?

James 3:2

² For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.



Why can communication be so difficult?

James 3:5–8

⁵ So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!

⁶ And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.

⁷ For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race.

⁸ But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.



Why can communication be so difficult?

James 3:9-12

⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

¹⁰ from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

¹¹ Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water?

¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.



What are some of the excuses that we might give to avoid improving in our communication?

That is just my personality

I'm just not a good communicator

I am just committed to being honest

I expect you to communicate with me the same way I communicate with you!



Warnings concerning the tongue

Proverbs 13:3

³ The one who **guards** his mouth preserves his life; The one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

Proverbs 18:7

⁷ A fool's mouth is his ruin, And his lips are the snare of his soul.



Warnings concerning the tongue

Matthew 12:33–37

33 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.

³⁴ "You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

³⁵ "The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.

³⁶ "But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

³⁷ "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."



Requirements for Good Communication

Romans $1\overline{2:1-2}$

¹ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.



Requirements for Good Communication

Colossians 3:16

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

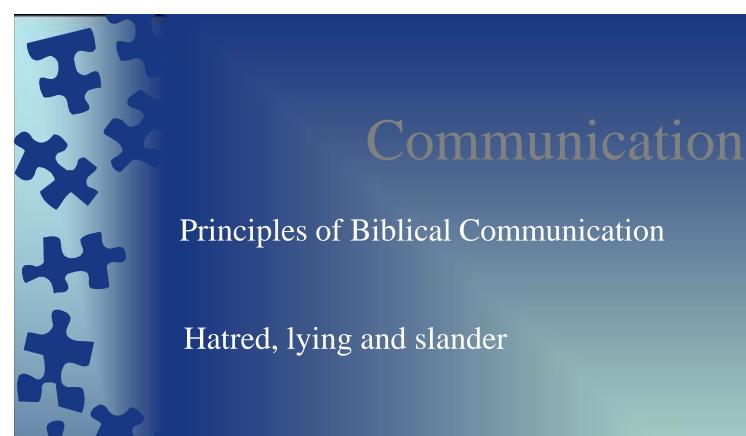
Ephesians 5:18

¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

Galatians 5:22–23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.



Proverbs 10:18

18 He who conceals hatred has lying lips, And he who spreads slander is a fool.

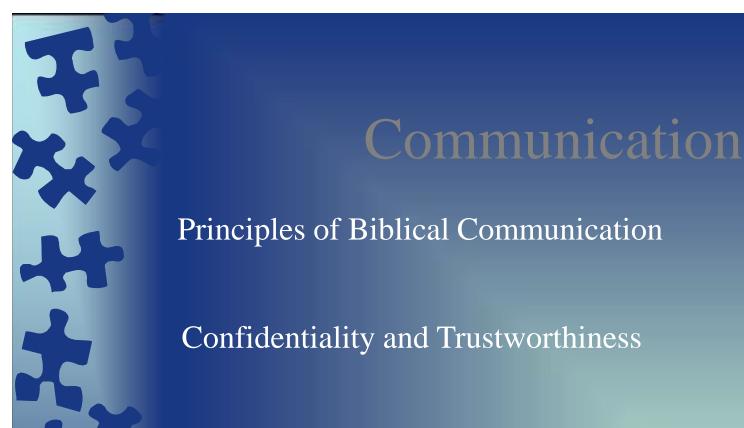


Principles of Biblical Communication

Too Much Talk

Proverbs 10:19

¹⁹ When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, But he who restrains his lips is wise.



Proverbs 11:13

13 He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets,
But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.



Principles of Biblical Communication

Speaking Rashly Vs Wisely

Proverbs 12:18

¹⁸ There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.



Principles of Biblical Communication

Truth vs Lying

Proverbs 12:19

¹⁹ Truthful lips will be established forever, But a lying tongue is only for a moment.

Proverbs 12:22

²² Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal faithfully are His delight.

Communication Principles of Biblical Communication When to be Quiet Proverbs 12:23

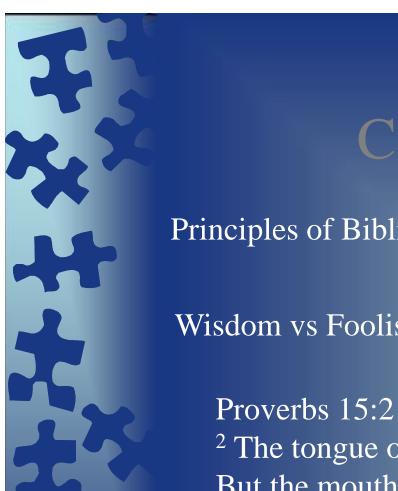
²³ A prudent man conceals knowledge, But the heart of fools proclaims folly.

Principles of Biblical Communication

Gentleness vs. Harshness

Proverbs 15:1

¹ A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.



Principles of Biblical Communication

Wisdom vs Foolishness

² The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly.



Principles of Biblical Communication

Timing

Proverbs 15:23

²³ A man has joy in an apt answer, And how delightful is a timely word!

Proverbs 25:11

¹¹ Like apples of gold in settings of silver Is a word spoken in right circumstances.

Principles of Biblical Communication

Interrupting

Proverbs 18:13

¹³ He who gives an answer before he hears, It is folly and shame to him.

Principles of Biblical Communication

Pride

Proverbs 27:2

² Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.



Principles of Biblical Communication

Speak the Truth in Love

Ephesians 4:14–15

¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

Principles of Biblical Communication

Sweet Speech

Proverbs 16:21

²¹ The wise in heart will be called understanding, And sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.



Principles of Biblical Communication

Very Bad Communication

Colossians 3:8

⁸ But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.



Principles of Biblical Communication

Very Bad Communication

Anger – wrath as the outburst of the vengeful mind.

Wrath – to move impetuously, indignation

Malice – wickedness as an evil habit of the mind. Not only doing evil but being evil

Communication Principles of Biblical Communication

Very Bad Communication

Slander – from the word blasphemy. Verbal abuse against someone.

Abusive speech – to be foul-mouthed, filthy or improper



Principles of Biblical Communication

Speech of a Godly Wife

Proverbs 31:26

²⁶ She opens her mouth in wisdom, And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Principles of Biblical Communication

Humility

Ephesians 4:2

² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

Communication Principles of Biblical Communication

Kindness

Ephesians 4:32

³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.



Principles of Biblical Communication

Precision

Ephesians 4:29

²⁹ 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, so that it will give grace to those who hear.



What are some bad patterns of communication?

What are signs that a person is not listening to you, even though you are talking to them?

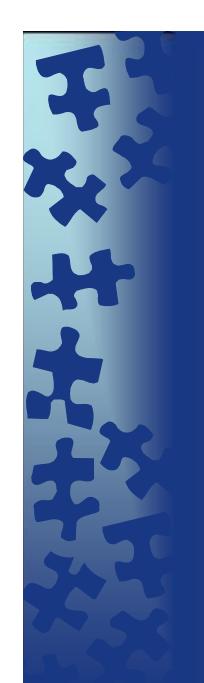
What are signs of anger?



Does listening mean the same as understanding?

To understand is it necessary that you relate?

In view of the fact that you may not be able to relate to the way your spouse feels, does this mean that you can't be considerate and understanding?



Application

What are your weaknesses in communication?

What are your strengths?

Are their sin patterns that need to be addressed in your communication?

In what specific ways will you improve in your communication?