

TOPIC: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION III
THEME: BENEFITS OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION
TEXT: PSALM 19:14 ESV, EPHESIANS 4:29 AMP, COLOSSIANS 4:6.

Introduction

When communicating with others, we often focus on what we should say. However, effective communication is less about talking and more about listening.

Good communication between people is of great importance in our society today. God's word gives us valuable insights into how we should speak to and treat one another, and as Christians we should seek to be a blessing to everyone that we come into contact with.

Benefits of Effective Communication

1. Material success. Proverbs 10:21 – ²¹ The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of wisdom.
2. Joy and fulfilment. Proverbs 15:23 – ²³ A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!
3. Friendship of those around. Proverbs 22:11 – ¹¹ He who loves purity of heart and has grace on his lips, the king will be his friend.

How do you do Effective Communication?

4. Use soft answers to deescalate tension, anger or arguments – **Proverbs 15:1**
Q: When is it most appropriate to use soft answers to diffuse tension?

5. Stop using words to cut people down – 1 Thessalonians 5:11
Discuss: Give examples of words that cut people down

6. Use encouraging words to build someone up – Colossians 4:6
Discuss: Give examples of words that build people up

7. Say the right things at the right time to help encourage someone. Proverbs 25:11

8. Find ways to make knowledge acceptable without insulting
Q: What does it mean that our words be seasoned with salt?

9. Use persuasiveness rather than authority or force to make argument. 2 Corinthians 5:11
Discuss: Give examples of persuasive words we can use in argument.

10. Listen well before you speak – Proverbs 29:20

Q: How do you understand the operative word here “Well”?

11. Communicate wisdom and fairness – Proverbs 21:23

Q: What is the benefit of communicating wisdom & Fairness?

12. Be slow to speak, not hasty to express your thoughts. Proverbs 17:27

Q: What are the dangers of speaking in haste?

13. Be truthful without exaggeration or misleading people. Proverbs 12:22

Q: How do you guard against being truthful without exaggeration?

Conclusion

The key to great communication starts in the heart. The heart is the control room of the mind and body. This is where we store our treasure (Matthew 6:21). Hence the utmost importance of guarding our heart (Proverbs 4:23) because our words and actions flow from our heart. This also means what we treasure in our heart will drive our desires and that drives our choices.

Before entering into a conversation ask yourself what are your motives? What do you desire? If selfish ambition is the motive, effective communication will not be possible (James 3:16). When our motive is looking to the interests of others, we honour God and effective communication ensues.