

COMMUNICATING THE BIBLE WAY



Communicating the Bible Way

Let's begin with a quick overview of the book of Ephesians.

Chapters 1-3 – Redemptive theology.

Chapters 4-6 – Sanctification theology.

Eph. 4:1 – This is a pivotal verse – a worthy walk is displayed by a worthy talk.

Eph. 4:1-24 – If you are saved, God says things will be different.

Eph. 4:17-19 – Pre-salvation life style → this is what you were.

Eph. 4:20, 21 – You did not learn the “Ephesians 4:17-19 lifestyle” from Christ.

Eph. 4:22 – Put off the pre-salvation way of handling life. **Feeling oriented**

Eph. 4:24 – Put on the post-salvation way of handling life. **Command oriented**

Eph. 4:23 – “Renewed” – the Greek word from which we get our word *renovate*. Reconstruct your mind.

Eph. 4:25-32 – God lays down specific principles to help you change your communication to please Him.

These principles are structured on this replacement principle of v. 22-24.

I. You Must be honest. Ephesians 4:25

A. You must speak

Being honest is more than refusing to out-and-out lie.

1 Corinthians 2:11

You can't read minds. You're not required to read minds. You shouldn't expect anyone to read yours.

You can't judge and conclude one's heart motives. Judging intents and motives is sinful.

2 Chronicles 6:30

To communicate requires *speaking*, therefore **clamming up is out**.

B. You must speak the truth.

You can't just throw out the clichés, insinuations veiled innuendos, etc. and expect people to clearly understand.

C. You are responsible to make the truth palatable and tasty. You must speak lovingly.

Do you make the conversation inviting so the other person is encouraged to engage?

Colossians 4:6

II. You Must stay up-to-date. Ephesians 4:26, 27

A. Paul says to “be angry.”

B. Paul says but *don't sin* (don't be sinfully angry) *in the process*.

Question: How do I know if my anger is sinful or not?

ANGER	
SINFUL	RIGHTEOUS
1. My words, tones and actions reveal that I did not get what I wanted or thought I deserved. Sarcasm, disrespect, sharp, accusing, unkind, condescending	1. My words, tones and actions reveal that God did not get what He should have. Firm, focused, appealing to truth. Kind, loving, caring.
2. I want my sinful, selfish desires to be satisfied.	2. I want God's truth to prevail. What does God say should be His right and your responsibility?
3. I am god. I choose what is important, not God. What should happen, how things should go, etc.	3. God is God – and my words and actions show my commitment to this truth.
4. I decide what my rights are. I defend my rights.	4. I defend God's rights.
5. My responses are not controlled.	5. My responses are controlled.
6. The energy of anger is being abused and it is abusive to others. It's used to hurt, manipulate, and exasperate. Volume, roll eyes, walk away, exasperated sigh, cutting remark, bringing up old settled issues.	6. The energy of anger is helping me confront the problem in a timely, loving, controlled way.
7. Fleshly appetites are being fed. My focus is on me.	7. My focus stays on God and His truth.

C. Paul says, *Don't let the sun go down on your wrath*.

What is his point? Settle today's problems today. Don't allow any more time to lapse than is necessary.

Dangers of Not Solving Today's Problems Today

...You are guilty of sin.

...You are setting yourself and others up for spiritual discouragement.

...You are opening the door to resentment, hostility, bitterness and hatred.

...You will tend to exaggerate subsequent problems.

...You set yourself up for a bigger load to carry tomorrow than is necessary.

III. You must go after problems not people. Ephesians 4:29, 30

The problem is to be destroyed biblically; *the hearer* is to be ministered to.

A. Don't use corrupt or foul words. Refuse to let them "proceed" from your mouth.

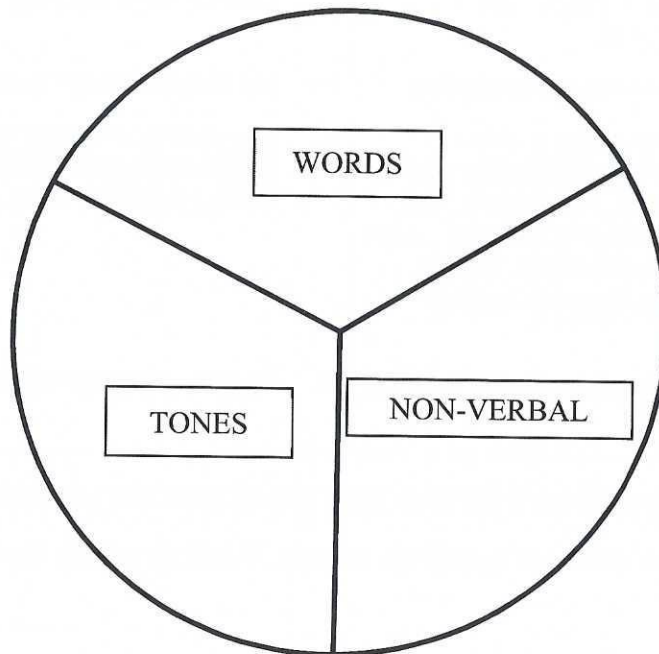
B. Use words that edify.

Use words that encourage, build up and motivate the hearer to engage.

C. Use words that minister grace.

Grace (5485) – A favor done without expectation of return. It can have the idea, as here, of a form or manner meaning gracefulness, elegance, gracious words.

D. Stop grieving the Holy Spirit by how you communicate.



Three Areas of Biblical Communication

Words	Tones	Non-verbal
Proverbs 18:21 <i>Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.</i>	Proverbs 15:1 <i>A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.</i>	Genesis 3:7 <i>And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.</i>
Proverbs 25:11 <i>A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.</i>	Proverbs 12:18 <i>There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.</i>	Genesis 37:3 <i>Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. (4) And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.</i>
Proverbs 15:23 <i>A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!</i>	Proverbs 16:24 <i>Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.</i>	Genesis 4:6 <i>And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?</i>
	Proverbs 25:15 <i>By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.</i>	1 Samuel 1:18 <i>And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad.</i>
	Colossians 4:6 <i>Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.</i>	Nehemiah 2:2 <i>Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid,</i>

In times of pressure with the children, spouse, boss, you are responsible for all three of these.

In times of discouragement, conflict, hurt feelings, etc., you are responsible for all three of these areas. There is not a situation that you can ignore these responsibilities.

IV. You Must act biblically, not react sinfully. Ephesians 4:31, 32

A. Put off these sinful reactions.

1. Bitterness (4088) – Refusing to treat another person as if they never hurt you. It is a smoldering resentment.

Hebrews 12:15 speaks of a *root of bitterness*. When it grows, it gets stronger, requires more nourishment and takes up more room.

2. Wrath (2372) – Flaring outbursts of rage.
3. Anger (3709) – Settled hostility that seeks revenge → *the slow burn*.

This is retaliation, payback, logging it in the book until the account is settled.

4. Clamor (2906) – Harsh contention, strife, brawling.
5. Evil speaking (988) – Slander, abusive speech that hinders.

It is the Greek word *blasphemia*.

It is verbal abuse against anyone, which denotes the very worst type of slander. It is wounding someone's reputation by evil reports (stated, implied, couched in a question).

This is character assassination. It destroys reputations. It is intended to malign, insult, abuse, rail and slander.

6. Malice (2549) – Desire to harm others or see them suffer. Desire to do evil to others. Spite and meanness. It is wickedness as an evil habit of mind.

B. Put on these Godly actions.

1. Kindness (5543) – Benevolent, helpful, courteous, useful toward others, good-natured, gentle. A disposition that subdues all that is harsh and hasty.
2. Tenderhearted (2155) – Good-hearted, compassionate, sympathetic, full of compassion and pity. Willing to bear other's burdens.
3. Forgiving (5483) – To cancel an offense and to free the offender from the guilt of it. To give or bestow a thing willingly, to be gracious to. To be ready to pardon personal wrongs (like God – Psalm 86:5).