

“Growing Godly Families”

Week 2: “Communication: The Key to Good Relationships”

Faith Bible Church

May 16, 2010

James 3:1-12 (New American Standard)

1 Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment. **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. **3** Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they may obey us, we direct their entire body as well. **4** Behold, the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder, wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. **5** So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. Behold, 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. **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? Neither can salt water produce fresh.

BIBLICAL GUIDELINES FOR GOOD COMMUNICATION, WHETHER IN THE HOME OR THE CHURCH:

I. Place the other person's _____ ahead of _____.

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself... *Philippians 2:3 NASB*

II. Be an active _____ before you speak.

Don't reply in _____.

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

Proverbs 18:13 NASB

Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him. *Proverbs 29:20 NASB*

This you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak... *James 1:19 NASB*

III. Speak the _____ in _____.

Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. *Ephesians 4:25 NASB*

but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ... *Ephesians 4:15 NASB*

IV. Don't allow _____ to break a relationship.

2 Samuel 13-14

V. Avoid _____, _____ and _____.

This you know, my beloved brethren... let everyone be... slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. *James 1:19-20 NASB*

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. *Proverbs 15:1 NASB*

Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, but any fool will quarrel. *Proverbs 20:3 NASB*

Do all things without grumbling or disputing; that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God... *Philippians 2:14-15 NASB*

A fool always loses his temper, but a wise man holds it back. *Proverbs 29:11 NASB*

Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity. *Ephesians 4:26-27 NASB*

VI. Practice _____ ... and _____.

And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. *Ephesians 4:32 NASB*

... bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. *Colossians 3:13 NASB*

VII. Don't tear _____; build _____.

Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances. *Proverbs 25:11 NASB*

A man has joy in an apt answer, and how delightful is a timely word! *Proverbs 15:23 NASB*

Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing. *1 Thessalonians 5:11 NASB*