

Edward Christian Church “Now that’s What I’m Talking About” Communication –pt4b

You constantly and continually deliver messages that reveal the true disposition of your heart.

It's not just *what* you say, but the *way* you say it, listen to others and look at others...

Characteristics of Negative Communication

1. Words That Wound - "A wise man's heart guides his mouth." -Prov 16:23

2. Wrongful Ways

○ Disagreeable Ways

Here are **insensitive** ways, often used by those **unaware** of how they become **habits** that do **not** bring glory to God.

"For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths." -Proverbs 5:21

- **Am I dominating?**.... **monopolizing** or **controlling** conversation
- **Am I interrupting?**.... with a **competing** spirit
- **Am I nagging?**.... finding **fault** constantly – **Jude 1:16NLT- These people are grumblers and complainers, living only to satisfy their desires. They brag loudly about themselves, and they flatter others to get what they want.**
- **Am I complaining?**.... making **crisis** or **problem** dominated conversation - **Numbers 21:4-6 ESV-From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.**
- **Am I criticizing?**.... **dwelling on the negative** **James 2:13 (AMP)** For to him who has shown no mercy the judgment [will be] merciless, but mercy [full of glad confidence] exults victoriously over judgment.
- **Am I cutting?**.... making jabbing, **sarcastic** remarks
- **Am I ridiculing?**.... making another the **object** of laughter
- **Am I arguing?**.... disagreeing and **disputing**
- **Am I moralizing?**.... **lecturing** and giving **unsolicited** advice
- **Am I generalizing?**.... simplifying or **making light** of real concerns

"An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, / disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel." -Pro 18:19

○ Defensive Ways

Ten, usually **unintentional**, self-protective patterns are **evasive** tactics used to avoid looking at one's own **imperfections**.

"He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses/ renounces them finds mercy." -Pro 28:13

- **Am I countering** ...the one who **confronts** with words of **denial**?
- **Am I evading** ...self-examination by **focusing** on the **faults** of the other?
- **Am I blaming** ...my **responses** on the actions of the other **person**?
- **Am I bringing up** ...the other's **mistakes** from the past?
- **Am I rationalizing** my **behavior** because of the **circumstances**?
- **Am I arguing** about a trivial point to **evade** the real issue?
- **Am I changing** the subject without **responding** to what was communicated?
- **Am I refusing to talk** or **respond**?
- **Am I hiding** in work activities to **avoid** intimacy?
- **Am I choosing to ignore grievances** and allowing my own **feelings** to fester?

"He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise." -Proverbs 15:31

○ Deceptive Ways

Ten **intentional** versions of **untruthfulness** reveal **open rebellion/ denial** of God's **claim** on one's life.

"The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception." -Proverbs 14:8

- **Am I lying?**.... knowingly giving wrong **information/impressions**
- **Am I blaming?**.... shifting **responsibility** to another
- **Am I flattering?**.... complimenting with **hidden** motives

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- **Am I gossiping?**.... telling **rumors** about others
- **Am I boasting?**.... bragging and flattering **myself**
- **Am I diverting?**.... changing the **subject**
- **Am I pouting?**.... refusing to communicate **verbally**
- **Am I patronizing?**.... **pretending** to agree or give support
- **Am I discriminating?**.... choosing to hear **only** what I want to hear
- **Am I misleading?**.... communicating only **partial** truth

"Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices/ have put on the new self... " -Col 3:9-10
