

Edward Christian Church “Now that’s What I’m Talking About” Communication –pt5a

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...

Causes of Negative Communication

We are **created** to have **relationships**. God not only wants us to enjoy a personal **relationship** with Him... but that we **develop** / **experience** loving **relationships** with others. However, our **sinfulness** often gets in the **way**.

- 1-Remember **Adam's response** when God called out to him in the **garden**? It could be **paraphrased** something like... *"I heard You seek to communicate with me, but knowing I had disobeyed, I was afraid You wouldn't love me anymore. It seemed better to hide so You couldn't see the truth. Actually, it's not my fault! The companion You gave me caused the whole problem."* -**Genesis 3:9-12**
- Adam began acting out sin by **seeking to meet his needs for love**, for **significance** and for **security** in the way *he* thought best.

Q- "Why is it often difficult to have healthy communication within close relationships?"

*A- **Healthy, mature communication is the revelation of our true selves to someone who cares about us.***

- **Risk of rejection can be so intense that we learn different ways to hide our fears and self-doubts.**
- **We may not be aware of the destructive habits that were often formed in childhood/ that stayed with us.**
- **Yet they remain established responses that block honest and sincere communication with others.**

"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me." -**1 Corinthians 13:11**

1- Hidden Agendas

Am I **allowing** God to meet my **emotional needs** for **love**, for **significance** and for **security**? Am I **resting** in the **assurance** of my **God-given self-worth**? When I know that **I have all I need in Christ**, my **heart** becomes **free to focus** on the **needs of others**. **Only** then will Christ **communicate His sincere love through me**.

Search your own heart. Are you **free to love others** or are you **still in bondage**, trying to get your **own needs met** through **self-focused, hidden agendas**?

"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" -**Jeremiah 17:9**

Lies of the fig-leaf:

- **I will receive love** if I **hide** my **faults**, **stuff** my **feelings**, **look good**, become **popular**, give **gifts**, **flatter** those around me and am **always** willing to **please** or **help** others.
- **I will have significance** if I **deny** my **failures**, appear **superior**, **dominate**, **judge** and **criticize** others, point out **faults**, perform **well**, get **attention** or **impress** others.
- **I will be secure** if I **conceal** my **fears**, **deny** my **anger**, **avoid** conflict, shade the **truth**, withhold **trust**, **dodge** vulnerability, **require** certain **conditions** and, above all, **stay in control**.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." -**Philippians 2:3-5** see: [3a.pdf](#)

³ Do nothing from factional motives [through contentiousness, strife, selfishness, or for unworthy ends] or prompted by conceit *and* empty arrogance. Instead, in the true spirit of humility (lowliness of mind) let each regard the others as better than *and* superior to himself [thinking more highly of one another than you do of yourselves].⁴ Let each of you esteem *and* look upon *and* be concerned for not [merely] his own interests, but also each for the interests of others. ⁵ Let this same attitude *and* purpose *and* [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:] - **Philippians 2:3-5 (AMP)**
