

Required but Hard Conversations

WE MUST control what we say, it must provide Godly benefits - Eph 4:29 **DO NOT LET any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths**, but **ONLY what is helpful for building others up according to their needs**, that it may benefit those who listen.

We will be accountable for what we LET come out of our mouths - Matt 12:36-37 - 36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every **careless word** they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

Our words can be the worst form of abuse - Prov 12:18 Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Worthless, divisive conversations are to be unacceptable and severely warned against - Titus 3:9-11- 9 But **AVOID foolish controversies** and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because **these are unprofitable and useless**. 10 **Warn a divisive person once**, and then **warn him a second time**. **AFTER THAT, HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM**. 11 **You may be sure** that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

We must avoid offensive conversations and foolish topics - Eph 5:4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

Godless conversation is dangerous to the speaker and a disease to the body of Christ - 2 Tim 2:16-17 - 16 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it **WILL BECOME** more and more ungodly. 17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene.

False speakers and their listeners are doomed - Prov 21:28 A false witness will perish, and whoever listens to him will be destroyed forever.

Those that avoid wisdom are labeled fools - Prov 23:9 Do not speak to a fool, for he will scorn the wisdom of your words.

Our speaking to or about others must never be driven by our purpose and how we see it - James 4:11-12 - 11 Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you — who are you to judge your neighbor?

The characteristics of false speakers is apparent - Jude 16 These men are **grumblers and faultfinders**; they **follow their own evil desires**; they **boast about themselves** and **flatter others for their own advantage**.

When it comes to the indisputable things of Christ, we must strive for ALL in the relationship to have the mind of Christ - 1 Cor 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, **in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ**, that **ALL OF YOU AGREE WITH ONE ANOTHER so that there may be no divisions among you** and that you may be **perfectly united** in mind and thought.

True unity with believers gives us access to true relationship with Christ along with all that comes with it - Col 2:2-4 - 2 My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, **SO THAT** they may have the full riches of complete understanding, **IN ORDER THAT** they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this **SO THAT** no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.

To effectively communicate, we MUST Totally removing self – Phil 2:3-4 -3 **DO NOTHING** out of **SELFISH AMBITION** or **VAIN CONCEIT**, but **in humility** consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

We are required to have an answer why we have Hope in Christ and it must be presented gently and respectfully - 1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared** to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason **for the hope that you have**. But do this with gentleness and respect,

Our conversations must have the right ingredients - Col 4:6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, SO THAT you may know how to answer everyone.

We MUST communicate correctly - James 1:19-20 - 19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be **QUICK TO LISTEN, SLOW TO SPEAK** and **SLOW TO BECOME ANGRY**, 20 for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

Now that we have basis for Godly communication, we must realize there are conversations that will be uncomfortable but are necessary

Concerning a brother in sin - Gal 6:1-Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should RESTORE HIM GENTLY. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.

A Christian openly living in disobedience - 2 Thess 3:14-15 - 14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, **take special note of him**. **Do not associate with him**, in order that he may feel ashamed. 15 Yet **do not regard him as an enemy**, but **warn him as a brother**.

When another Christian sins against you - Matt 18:15-17 - 15 "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. 16 But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

When Christians are spreading ungodly ideologies –

Titus 1:10-14 - 10 For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. 11 **They must be silenced** BECAUSE THEY ARE RUINING WHOLE HOUSEHOLDS BY TEACHING THINGS THEY OUGHT NOT TO TEACH — and that for the sake of dishonest gain. 12 Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. Therefore, **rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith** 14 and will **pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth.**

1 Tim 1:3-7 - 3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may **command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer** 4 **nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work — which is by faith.** 5 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 6 Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. 7 They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

To those that are idle, weak, timid and vengeful - 1 Thess 5:14-15 - 14 And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, **be patient with everyone.** 15 **Make sure** that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.