Communication

***Communication is something we all do if we like it or not. The question is, "are we communicating effectively?"**

Are we FIRST communicating to God the right way? - Matt 15:8-9 - 8 "'These people **honor me with their lips**, but their **hearts are far from me**. 9 **They worship me in vain**; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'"

If my purpose is distorted, my communication is distorted as well - Gal 6:7-8 - 7 **Do not be deceived**: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows **to please** his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows **to please** the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Here is the question, are we in control of our communication? - Prov 21:23 He who **guards his mouth and his tongue** keeps himself from calamity

*****WARNING***We as Christians must realize the main thing that hinders effective communication is "SELF". In order to successfully communicate with God, one another, our spouse, our children, and unbelievers, we must be selfless!**

Removing self is a must - Col 3:8-10 - 8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, **since you have taken off your old self with its practices** 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Be responsible for self - Rom 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Communication requires four essential parts:

1. **The act of speaking, or not speaking**

The power we have can save or kill - Prov 18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Small but powerful - James 3:5-12 – 5 Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 **The tongue** also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. **It corrupts the whole person**, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, 8 but **no man can tame the tongue**. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 **Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing**. My brothers, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

Silence speaks more than you know - Prov 17:28 Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.

When you don't communicate, you may miss out - James 4:2-3 - 2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because **you do not ask God**. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Be careful not to say too much-

Prov 10:19 **When words are many**, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.

Eccl 5:2 Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so **let your words be few**.

Be careful what you say- Prov 12:18 Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Watch HOW you say it!

Col 4:6 Let your conversation be **ALWAYS** full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know **HOW** to answer everyone.

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**,

Like Jesus, Christians should just relay what God is saying - John 12:49 For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me **WHAT TO SAY** and **HOW TO SAY IT**.

2. **Action or no action**

Our action speak louder than words - 1 John 3:18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with **ACTIONS AND IN TRUTH**.

Our actions confirm what we say - James 2:24 You see that a person is **justified** by **WHAT HE DOES** and **not by faith alone**.

Our love for Christ is in what we do, not just what we say - John 14:15 "**IF YOU LOVE ME**, you will obey what I command.

Our actions say more than we think - Prov 20:11 Even a child is **known by his actions**, by whether his conduct is pure and right.

A person's actions are the true image of what they are - Titus 1:16 They claim to know God, but **BY THEIR ACTIONS THEY DENY HIM**. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

3. **Listening/paying attention**

Listening is the most important part of communication - 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.

We are all required to do it - Mark 4:9 Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, LET HIM HEAR."

Don't always look for what you want to hear, but what we need to hear - Prov 28:23 He who rebukes a man will **in the end** gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue.

We also receive, by paying attention - Luke 17:3 Pay attention to yourselves! **IF YOUR BROTHER SINS**, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, ESV

Receiving and understanding are necessary for our Spiritual stamina - Heb 2:1 We must PAY MORE CAREFUL ATTENTION, therefore, to what we have heard, **so that** we do not drift away.

It is important to gather information and hear all sides - Prov 18:17 The **first** to present his case **seems right**, **TILL** another comes forward and questions him.

It is our responsibility to get to really know others in order to win others for Christ - 1 Cor 9:19-23 - 19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, **to win as many as possible**. 20 To the Jews I became **like a Jew**, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became **like one under the law** (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became **like one not having the law** (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I **became weak**, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men **so that BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS I MIGHT SAVE SOME**. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

4. **Understanding**

We need to ask to understand - Acts 8:30-31 – "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. 31 "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

Silence shows those who truly understand - Prov 11:12 A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue.

Without Understanding we are doomed - Hos 4:6 my people are destroyed from **LACK OF KNOWLEDGE**.

Know when it's beyond your understanding - Ps 139:6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Recognize truth

Absolute Truth John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am **THE** way and **THE** truth and **THE** life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

In the boundaries of God, each person will have Individual truth? -Rom 14:1-8 - Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. 2 One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 3 The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for **God has accepted him**. 4 **Who are you to judge someone else's servant?** To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. 5 One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. **Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind**. 6 He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. 8 **If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord**.

❖ **Things that hinder Communication**

Lack of communication usually exists due to our desires - 2 Tim 4:3 For the time will come when **MEN WILL NOT PUT UP WITH** sound doctrine. Instead, **TO SUIT THEIR OWN DESIRES**, **they will gather** around them a great number of teachers **to say what their itching ears want to hear**.

Our attitudes bring miscommunication - Acts 7:51 "You **stiff-necked** people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!

* **Not making an effort to do it -**James 4:17 Anyone, then, who **knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins**.

* **Lack of understanding and not trying to understand**

- **The Results of miscommunication**

Consequences of our actions - Ps 81:11-12 – 11 "But my people **would not listen to me**; Israel would not submit to me. 12 So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices.

God's Wrath - Rom 2:8 But for those who are **self-seeking** and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

True communication in roles

Husband to Wife - Eph 5:25-28 - 25 Husbands, **love your wives, just as Christ loved the church** and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 **In this same way**, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Husbands communicating to wives - 1 Peter 3:7 - 7 Husbands, in the same way be **considerate** as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker **partner** and as **heirs** with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Considerate – according to knowledge - *kata* (kat-ah'); (according to the case), ***gnosis*** (gno'-sis)knowledge:

Wife to Husband- Eph 5:22-23 - 22 Wives, **submit to your husbands as to the Lord**. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

Wives communicating to Husbands - 1 Peter 3:1-2 - Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 when they see the **purity** and **reverence** of your lives.

Children to Parents - Eph 6:1-3 - Children, **obey your parents in the Lord**, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"- which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Fathers to Children -Eph 6:4 Fathers, **do not exasperate your children**; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Employee to employer - Eph 6:5-8 - 5 Slaves, **obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart**, just as you would obey Christ. 6 Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

Employer to employee - Eph 6:9 - 9 And masters, **treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them**, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

❖**Important points in communication**

***True communication between Christians should not depend on self or the persons you're communicating to, it should only depend on God.**

Get self out the way for both giving communication or receiving -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.

- If you can't understand what someone is communicating go out of your way to understand
- If someone doesn't understand you go out of your way to help them understand.

Look out for others, don't take it personal - 1 Cor 12:25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have **equal concern** for each other.

Concern - merimnao (mer-im-nah'-o) to be anxious about:

Learn to read between the lines and discern actions

We need to know the INTENT of what is said - Matt 22:15-18 - 15 Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. 16 They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, **"we know you are a man of integrity** and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. 17 Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 18 But **JESUS, KNOWING THEIR EVIL INTENT, SAID, "YOU HYPOCRITES, WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO TRAP ME?**

They will use the Word with false purposes - John 8:3-6 - 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 **In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"** 6 **THEY WERE USING THIS QUESTION AS A TRAP, IN ORDER TO HAVE A BASIS FOR ACCUSING HIM**.

Christians have access to the key to true discernment - Col 2:4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by **fine-sounding arguments**.

Communicate…don't complain or argue

Complaining and arguing is not an option for Christians - Phil 2:14-15 - 14 **DO EVERYTHING** without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe

Keep your focus Spiritual all the time - James 4:1 - What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from **your desires** that battle within you?

Responsibility

We need to speak relying on and representing God - 1 Peter 4:11 –11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

We must hold firm to the teachings of Christ to speak the truth - John 8:31-32 - 31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "**IF** you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 **Then** you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Self-communication

Communicate with yourself before you communicate to others -Luke 6:41-42 – 41 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 42 How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

We need to communicate with ourselves daily - 2 Cor 13:5 –5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you-unless, of course, you fail the test?

we should not allow our communication to become corrupt - Eph 5:4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

Our constant communication should be consistent and careful - Col 3:8-9 – 8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

Know your audience and situations so you know how to communicate...

There is a very important purpose in communicating and if we are not careful it will be dangerous. -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.

Realize the situation before you communicate - Jude 22-23 - 22 Be merciful to those who doubt; 23 snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear-hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

All church teachers must recognize the listeners maturity level, and Christians must mature to receive the much need message - Heb 5:11-14 - 11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain **BECAUSE YOU ARE SLOW TO LEARN**. 12 In fact, though **by this time you ought to be teachers**, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. **You need milk, not solid food**! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But **solid food is for the mature**, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

God makes clear that Spiritual messages are made for Spiritual people - 1 Cor 2:13-14 - 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, **expressing spiritual truths** in **spiritual words**. 14 The man without the Spirit **does not** accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he **cannot understand them**, because **THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED**.

This is to make sure the Word or the "true teachers" are protected from attack - Matt 7:6 "Do not give dogs **what is sacred**; do not throw your **pearls** to pigs. If you do, they may **trample them under their feet**, and then **turn and tear you to pieces**.

Like a medical diagnosis is necessary to treat each ailment differently for the same purpose, the same goes for each person towards God for the same outcome - 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.

Use the Bible to guide in all kinds of communications

Part of a Christian's protection is the substance of words –

Eph 5:6-7 - 6 Let no one deceive you with **empty words**, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7 Therefore do not be partners with them.

Col 2:8 **See to it** that no one takes you captive through **hollow and deceptive philosophy**, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world RATHER THAN ON CHRIST.

How to Minister to unbelievers - Matt 10:16 I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as **shrewd** as snakes and as **innocent** as doves.

Shrewd - phronimos (fron'-ee-mos) - thoughtful, i.e. wise or discreet (indicates rather intelligence or mental acquirement)

Innocent - akeraios (ak-er'-ah-yos) harmless, unmixed, i.e. (figuratively) innocent:

Those that are disobedient and rebellious - 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.

One of the ways we should communicate to self - 1 Cor 3:18 - 18 **Do not deceive yourselves**. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, **he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise**.

God provides the appropriate way Christians are to communicate when there is a problem between them - 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.

Finally - 2 Cor 5:20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. Ps 4:4 - In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.

Questions (Communication):

1. What was the cause of the people's worship of Christ to be in vain? –

2. What two things can never be the basis for anything we do? -

3. What are the two reasons we do not receive what we want from God –

4. We are to not only love by word and tongue but by what else? –

5. Along with being quick to listen, what other two qualities do we need to display for effective communication

6. What is the main thing that distort our communication?

7. How did Jesus speak that we should emulate?

8. What we say will be solidified by what?

9. Give examples of when silence is good and when it is bad.

10. Use 2 Tim 4:3 to explain how this communication with God today.

11. What causes fights and arguments?

12. What is the correct process for Christians to deal with conflict between one another.

13. When is not doing or saying anything a sin? -

14. Why are Christians considered to be “Christ’s Ambassadors”