



Proverbs: Effective Communication

Proverbs: Effective Communication - Message

To live well, to love well, to serve
well, we must communicate well

Effective Communication

Talking sends a message, but “talking is not necessarily the same as communicating. Communicating includes accurately receiving the message as well.”

Effective communication “involves people coming to a common meaning so that both sender and receiver are drawn together and mutually enriched and encouraged.”

(Wayne Mack, *Preparing for Marriage God's Way*, p. 143)

I. Build up others using effective communication

1) Building others up demands a foundation of truth

(Prov 12:19; 13:5; 14:5)

2) Building others up requires conveying useful information

(Prov 4:2; 8:6; 10:31; 15:7; 18:4; 31:26)

3) Building others up includes providing correction

(Prov 27:5-6; 28:23)

Proverbs 12:19

- Symmetrical
- Contrast

- 1) Truthful lips will be established forever
- 2) But a lying tongue is only for a moment

Emeth, reliable

Foundation, 3:19

- Lips
- Truthful
- Will be established
- Forever

- A tongue
- Lying
- Is
- Only for a moment

Time it takes to wink

Examine your words – Do they...

Provide
practical help?

Encourage the
discouraged?

Cheer the
sad?

Comfort the
grieving?

Motivate the
complacent?

Correct the
unruly?



II. Meditate on the benefits and characteristics of effective communication

Character: it is wise, good, healing, pleasant, upright, faithful, satisfying and truthful

Beauty: Wise speech is “a fountain of life... as choice silver... is a tree of life... pleasant words are pure... Like cold water to a weary soul” (Prov 10:11, 20; 15:4, 26; 25:25)

Benefits: “brings healing... makes it [the heart] glad”
(Prov 12:18, 25; 12:14; 13:3; 18:20-21)

III. Cultivate the skills and practices of effective communication

1) Faithfully listen to learn

- Discover truth, gather information
- Determine what someone needs by listening well
- Build a godly habit of listening (Prov 5:7; 7:24; 8:6; 4:20; 5:1), hearing (1:8; 4:1, 10), receiving (2:1; 4:10), paying attention (2:2; 4:1, 20; 5:1; 7:24)
- Ask good questions (Prov 20:5)
- *Godly questions are like opening a window to let light in, not setting a trap to ambush them*

III. Cultivate the skills and practices of effective communication

2) Patiently exercise restraint

Restraint is wisdom and self-control working together (Prov 10:19)

- Know when to keep silent (Prov 11:12-13; 17:27-28; 21:23)
- Be slow to anger (Prov 29:11; 15:18)

III. Cultivate the skills and practices of effective communication

3) Godly communication should fit the occasion

(Prov 15:23)

- Cover sin (Prov 17:9)
- Don't cover, correct (Prov 25:11-12; 17:10)

III. Cultivate the skills and practices of effective communication

4) Always respond in a way that makes things better, not worse

(Prov 15:1, 28)

5) Diffuse strife quickly

(Prov 17:14)

Adorn knowledge with beauty **(Prov 15:2; 16:21, 23, 24)**

“The wise have tongues controlled by loving emotions and sound thought and so speak in a way that makes their internalized knowledge of the moral order attractive. Instead of brutalizing people with their knowledge...the wise state it kindly, sensitively, and gently with an aim to save their audience, not to condemn and destroy it”

(Bruce Waltke, *Proverbs*, 1:614)

III. Cultivate the skills and practices of effective communication

6) Adorn the knowledge you speak with beauty

(Prov 15:2; 16:21, 23, 24)

7) Use extra wisdom around fools

(Prov 26:4-5; 23:9)

Don't stoop to the fool's level but expose their foolishness

8) Don't pat yourself on the back

(Prov 27:2)