

# Better Communication, Better Relationships

Introduction: Read Romans 12:10-16. In order to do what is described in these verses good communication is a must. Philippians 2:1-4. Communication is important to success.

## I. THE INHERENT POWER OF COMMUNICATION

- A. Problems in relationships begin with communication.
- B. Wisdom of God's word is the power of communication.
  - 1. James 3:2-10. There is power in the spoken word.
  - 2. Proverbs 21:33. Speak like the work of a carpenter.
  - 3. Job 19:2. The power to break or to build.
  - 4. 1 Peter 3:10. Speech affects the quality of your life.

## II. THE DELICATE BALANCE OF COMMUNICATION

- A. Barriers to good communication:
  - 1. Selfishness. It deteriorates a relationship! (Phil. 2:1-4)
  - 2. Bitterness & anger. (Eph. 4:31)
  - 3. Gossip & backbiting. (Prov. 16:27, 28)
  - 4. Faultfinding: Magnification of others' faults. (Mt. 7:1-5)
  - 5. Teasing & sarcasm.
  - 6. Quarreling. (Prov. 17:14; 20:3)
  - 7. Deceitfulness. (Eph. 4:29; Col. 3:9)
- B. Some steps to good communication:
  - 1. Ignore insulting criticism. (Prov. 12:16 - NIV)
  - 2. Confess faults promptly. (Prov. 28:13)
  - 3. Think & speak in the plural. It's a matter of "us" not just "you."
  - 4. Give each other the benefit of the doubt. (1 Cor. 13:5)
  - 5. Accentuate the positive. (Matt. 7:12)
  - 6. Personalize scripture. (2 Cor. 13:5)

Conclusion: By your words you will be justified or condemned. (Matt. 12:36, 37)