

Pursuing Oneness

Communication

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear
Eph. 4:29

A. Communication with a purpose

Words are powerful

Ungodly communication divides

Godly communication unifies

B. Communication with the Lord

In the Word - Understanding God's Plan for marriage

Pattern of marriage Gen. 1:1, 2:20-24, Rev. 19:6-8, 21:1

Purpose of marriage Gen. 1:26-27, 2:18-25

What's a woman to do? Eph. 5:22-24

What's a man to do? Eph. 5:25-33

The Perversion of the plan Rom. 1:18-32

In His Will – Jn. 15:15

In Love – 1 Cor. 13:4-8

In Surrender

In Choices

In Obedience - Jn. 14:21

In His Power - Phil. 4:13

In Prayer Together - Pursuing God's Goals for life and marriage

BREAKOUT: Let's Talk...

Communication List

Walking With God

Quenching the Spirit

Communicating Biblically

SPEAKING TO ONE ANOTHER

Unbiblical Communication

Words tear down
Speaks defensively, is argumentative.
Speaks out of bias or personal judgment
Speaks deceptively, lying, twisting truth
Speaks only about self / self-interests
Speaks in judgment with disdain
Speech is critical, condemning
Dominates/controls the conversation
Speaks abruptly, with impatience
Jumps to conclusions
Interrupts frequently
Talks too much, repeats, embellishes
Is insensitive; lacking love and interest
Speech builds up self, competitive
Appears bored; not interacting

Biblical Communication

Words build up
Speaks with kindness, compassion
Speaks truth objectively without bias
Speaks truth in love
Speaks with others about their interests
Speaks with humility, self-control
Speech offers praise and thanksgiving
Allows others to lead conversation
Speaks gently and with patience
Thinks before speaking
Allows others to complete their thought
Speaks with clarity and constraint
Is compassionate, sensitive, understanding
Speech encourages others
Values & interacts with others

LISTENING TO ONE ANOTHER

Unbiblical Communication

Focused on **getting** their wishes
Focused on own thoughts & feelings
Listens through personal bias
May not look the speaker in the eye
May be easily distracted by sights or sounds
May multitask while listening
Non-verbal is insensitive, closed
May not remember – does not concentrate
Presents with an impression of superiority

Biblical Communication

Focused on **giving**, listens carefully
Focused on speaker, concentrates on content
Listens objectively to others perspective
Looks directly at the speaker
Is not easily distracted, continues to listen
Is focused solely on speaker & conversation
Non-verbal is open, compassionate, sensitive
Remembers conversation to build on it
Conveys attitude of humility

Walking in the Spirit with His Power

To help evaluate whether you are walking in the power of the Holy Spirit or walking in your own strength.

Check the evidences or statements that may apply to you.

Evidences of quenching the Holy Spirit

- I don't feel close to God or sense his presence in my life
- I question the assurance of my salvation
- Reading scripture is boring and it feels like a duty
- I lack power in overcoming sin in my life
- I am easily discouraged
- I struggle having peace in the midst of hard times
- My life seldom displays the fruit of the Spirit
- I have difficulty discerning between right and wrong

Ways I quench the Holy Spirit

- Being bitter and angry about the people or circumstances in my life
- Questioning God's goodness and faithfulness in my life
- Spending little time in prayer
- Spending little time in God's Word
- Not worshipping as an overflow of communion with God
- Not being willing to cast my cares upon Him
- Not willing to take hard steps of obedience or placing stipulations on obedience
- Trusting my own resources and not turning to God, believing I can handle things myself
- Focusing on my own inadequacies
- Not trusting His provision, believing "He doesn't have what I need"
- Questioning God's plan and purpose for me
- Not rejoicing in what God has done for me
- Complaining instead of giving thanks in all things
- Unwilling to confess sins to God and to repent
- Unwilling to surrender to the Lord's direction...it seems too difficult
- Believing God does not love you because He doesn't give you what you want
- Unwilling to suffer for Christ's sake
- Being complacent, apathetic, and/or giving up on your relationship with God
- Hardening your heart against God and/or being angry at Him
- Not trusting God to be your major source of security, fulfillment, and purpose

Walking With God On His Terms

**Evaluating whether you are walking with God on His terms or walking in your way on your terms
Check the evidences or statements that may apply to you**

Lies you may believe to validate your experience, feelings and logic to convince yourself you are right and God is wrong:

- Believing God is distant and doesn't want to be involved in your daily life
- Believing God doesn't love you just as much when you are sinning as when you are obedient
- Believing God doesn't love you at all
- Believing God has rejected, failed, abandoned, forsaken you
- Believing you deserve a better life
- Believing you must sanctify yourself
- Believing God is *not* working all things for your good, rejecting the concept of God's goodness (Rom. 8:28; Ps. 52:1)
- Equating God's goodness with Him making life easy for you and eliminating your suffering.
- Not accepting God's expressions of goodness in the midst of your suffering and His desire to encourage you toward His goals
- Believing you are a "victim" of God-ordained suffering in your life
- Believing He is not sufficient or effective in His ability to minister to your neediness

Sinful attitudes and actions that are a result of a wrong view of God

- Being performance-oriented
- Striving to please Him through your own efforts and your own resources
- Presenting your own righteousness to Christ; taking credit for your obedience (Is. 64:6)
- Believing you should not suffer because you have tried to please God
- Establishing the goal of and striving for perfection
- Seeking "formulas" for successful living
- Being "driven" to succeed
- Living a rebellious, sinful life without repentance
- Being angry at God, His plan for your life and/or angry with others who are difficult people
- Claiming the "rights" to suppress, escape, manipulate or control to receive what you believe you must have
- Having a prevailing ungrateful attitude toward God, life, others and circumstances
- Hardening your heart and numbing your spirit toward God and others
- Believing your whining, self-pity, anger or unwillingness to accept your form(s) of suffering will change God's terms of relating to you
- Comparing your life to others and feeling either superior or inferior, jealous, angry, discontentment
- Establishing and pursuing self-life goals, demanding that your personal rights and perceived needs be met by God and others
- Seeking security, power, purpose, sufficiency, affirmation and satisfaction through your idols and false identities
- Refusing to believe that because God is your creator and you are His creation, He knows what is best for you and how best to relate to you

Evidences you have erected a barrier between you and God

- A lack of experiencing God's intimacy, fellowship, power, blessings, fruit
- Not knowing how to "connect" with Him
- An anger toward God
- A self-trust, relying upon your own feelings, experience, logic, common sense to determine your relationship with God
- A self-sufficiency, relying upon your goals, idols, false identities, controlling strategies to replace your provision in and through Christ
- An excuse, which you believe is valid, to rebel against submission to God and His Word
- An inability to "rest" in Christ and His sovereign will for your life
- A determination that you know better than God what is best for your life

THE SURRENDERED LIFE

LIVING FOR GOD'S KINGDOM

GOD'S GOALS

- **To glorify Him**
1 Pet. 4:11; Is. 43:7; 1 Cor. 10:31
- **To know Him intimately**
1 John 5:20; John 17:3

- **To grow in godliness**
Eph. 5:1; 1 Tim. 4:7
- **To serve an eternal purpose**
1 Pet. 2:9; John 15:16

THE TRANSFORMED LIFE

is a by-product of God's work in me as I live obediently.
Phil. 1:6; Rom. 12:2

The fruit of the Spirit is evident in my life.

THE FULFILLED LIFE

is a by-product of the presence of God in me as I surrender to Him.
John 10:10b

GOD'S RESOURCES

JESUS CHRIST →

HOLY SPIRIT →

SCRIPTURE →

BODY OF CHRIST →

SUFFERING →

As I live obediently, God promises to give me all I need to reach His goals

*2 Pet. 1:3
Phil. 4:13, 19
2 Cor. 9:8*

GODLY BELIEFS

- I deserve nothing more than to burn in hell.
Rom. 6:19; Eph. 2:3
- I exist for God's purposes, not my own.
1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 5:15
- I view trials/ suffering as opportunities to draw on God's resources to reach His goals.
Phil. 3:8-10, Deut. 8:3
- I die to self-will and submit to God, what ever the cost, as Christ did.
Luke 22:52; Gal. 2:20
- I accept every circumstance, including trials, as ordained by God for my eternal benefit and to fit me for His Kingdom purpose.
Eph. 1:11; Rom. 8:28

STEPPING STONES TO GOD'S GOALS

ETC.

PERSECUTION

LOSSES

ILLNESS

REJECTION

FAILED EXPECTATIONS

PAINFUL CIRCUMSTANCES

DIFFICULT PEOPLE