



FOUR RULES OF COMMUNICATION-ATTACK PROBLEM, NOT PEOPLE

Paul makes it very clear that we are to

- A. "PUT OFF" words that attack a person's character. The word Paul uses is unwholesome. The word "unwholesome" means "corrupt" or "foul." It was used of rotten fruit, vegetables, and other spoiled foods. The main point is that unwholesome speech should never proceed out of the mouth of the Christian because it is totally out of character with his newness of life.

John MacArthur said "Unwholesome language should be as repulsive to us as a rotten apple or a spoiled piece of meat. Off-color jokes, profanity, dirty stories, vulgarity, and every other form of corrupt talk should never cross our lips."

In essence, we are talking about words that "cut down" the other person. Matthew 5:21 *You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and Whosoever commits murder shall be liable to the court' (22) But I say to you, that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court, and who says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.*"

Note the context in which Jesus was speaking.

-The warning is for people in conflict

- B. Words can tear down, rip apart or hinder spiritual growth these kinds of words are dangerous, destructive, and painful. Proverbs 16:27 says "An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire."
- C. Use Edifying Words. Ephesians 4:29 "but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear." This means that care must be taken as to what you say and to how you say it.

These are words that center on personal responsibility and express solutions in terms of actions.

- D. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ATTACK THE PROBLEM? Short Answer: To discuss the problem in a God-honoring way.

(1) Jesus said, "Out of the heart a man speaks." – Focus on your own speech

(2) what do you want to accomplish. Check your motives against the Word of God

- (3) Determine that you will show love to the other person by helping them and not hurting them
- (4) Try to see the problem from God's perspective. When we see the problem through the lens of Scripture, we can focus on a solution through the lens of Scripture.
- (5) Model Grace. Does the other person not deserve it? That is the perfect situation for grace!
- (6) Have an eye on glorifying God in the way you handle the problem
- (7) Remember that you will give an account for everything you says 2 Corinthians 5:10