



FOUR RULES OF COMMUNICATION-ACT < DON'T REACT

Remember the definition of effective communication? “The process of sharing information with another person in such a way that the sender’s message is understood as he intended it. Unless the sender and receiver have come to a common meaning, they haven’t communicated effectively.”

We have discussed HONESTY and DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM IMMEDIATELY. Today we want to deal with ATTACKING THE PROBLEM, NOT THE PERSON. Paul makes it clear that we are to.....

- A. “PUT OFF” words that attack a person’s character
 - these are words that are the exact opposite of “edifying” (building up)
- B. USE “EDIFYING” communication that encourages or builds up
- C. What does it mean to attack the problem? The short answer: TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM IN A GOD-HONORING WAY.
 - (1) Starts with your heart (inner man)
 - (2) Includes your motive (what are you trying to accomplish?)
 - (3) Means thinking Biblically
 - (4) Take care to use Biblical terminology
 - (5) Model Grace
- D. Act – Don’t React. Why do we tend toward “reacting?”
 - (1) The effects of the curse of sin on our mind’s ability to think and reason. When we do things our way instead of God’s way, it usually leads to strife, division, and destruction
 - (2) we make decisions based on our feelings rather than the truth of God’s word
- E. REACTIONS(vs. 31) – ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS THAT MUST BE PUT OFF
 - (1) BITTERNESS A strong warning in Hebrews 12:15
 - (2) WRATH – Flaring outbursts of anger – Thumos – explosive anger
 - (3) ANGER – Settled indignation or hostility that seeks revenge – slow burn
 - (4) CLAMOR – Harsh contention and strife, public quarreling. MacArthur says this about clamor; “the shout or outcry of strife reflected in a public outburst that reveals a loss of control.”
 - (5) SLANDER – speech that injures – abusive speech
 - (6) MALICE – the desire to harm others or see them suffer. Vengeance is the desire to get even
- F. Actions (vs. 32) attitudes and actions you must put on to replace the reactions
 - (1) KIND – benevolent, helpful, courteous. You will never get here if you focus on how the other person hurt you. You can only get here by focusing on Christ

CONCLUSION:

1. Conflicts are possible only if each person reacts
2. Changing habits is not easy, but it is a much better way to live
3. You can't change the other person, but you can change how you respond and how you communicate