



FOUR RULES OF COMMUNICATION: BE HONEST

Ephesians 4:22-32

Have you ever considered that God could have chosen a multitude of ways for us to communicate? Why do you think He chose words? What we do know is that God spoke the world into existence (Genesis 1: "And God said...").

While words are important, words alone are not sufficient (in and of themselves) to ensure that communication will take place. Communication is "the process of sharing information with another person in such a way that the sender's message is understood with a common meaning."

One thing that is not an option for the Christian is CLAMMING UP. When Adam sinned, the communication line with God got cut. When we REFUSE TO TALK, we are EVADING, AVOIDING, or ATTEMPTING TO MANIPULATE.

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

1 Corinthians 2:11 says "For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him except the spirit of God?"

WE MUST COMMUNICATE WITH OTHERS BECAUSE THEY CANNOT READ OUR MINDS. There might be patterns of behavior /responses that a person might anticipate (but that anticipation may be wrong).

A SECOND REASON IS THAT HONEST IS MORE THAN NOT LYING...

- (1) Honesty is telling the truth
- (2) Honesty includes giving the following
 - a. Facts about the situation
 - b. Reality of the circumstances
 - c. Being open and willing to discuss the details, consequences, etc.
 - d. Humility receives a place of prominence

COLOSSIANS 2:6 LET YOUR SPEECH ALWAYS BE WITH GRACE, AS THOUGH SEASONED WITH SALT, SO THAT YOU WILL MINISTER GRACE TO YOUR HEARERS."

Why is it so easy to violate Colossians 4:6?

By nature, we are dishonest. Dishonesty does not give the right opinion of God (God does not have the ability to be dishonest). JESUS WAS FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH. Instead of grace and truth, we are prone to one of two errors:

1. Outright deceit.
2. Over exaggeration ("You always...You never...")