



## **FOUR RULES OF COMMUNICATION: KEEP CURRENT**

The first rule of communication we discussed was BEING HONEST. Paul illustrates this in Ephesians 4:25-32. This starts by recognizing:

1. This is a command – “YOU SPEAK”
2. Honesty is more than just “not lying”
3. It involves “speaking the truth” (Ephesians 4:15)

### **Dealing With Problems As They Arise**

Remember Matthew 6:33? *“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (vs. 34) So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will take care for itself. Each day has enough trouble for itself.”*

### **DON'T BRING THE BAGGAGE OF YESTERDAY INTO THE PROBLEMS OF TODAY.**

POINT: You better take care of things today – tomorrow may never come – and if it does, you don't know what may happen that might hinder you from solving the problem!

- A. Be angry, but don't sin
  - (1) God's Word has a lot to say about anger
  - (2) Proverbs has about 20 uses of the word
  - (3) Proverbs 14:29 says “He who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who is quick tempered exalts folly
  - (4) Proverbs 14:35 says The king's favor is toward a servant who acts wisely, but his anger is toward him who acts shamefully
  - (5) Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word turns up anger
  - (6) Proverbs 15:18 A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but the slow to anger calms a dispute
- B. Anger can/should be energy used to solve problems. Anger is a God-given emotion which produces energy intended to help you solve problems biblically and solve them immediately
- C. Godly anger (the anger God demonstrates) is not concerned primarily for our self worth but rather for God's Name and glory.
- D. Anger is sinful when it is used to attack others with selfish motives

### **SEVEN QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE RESOLVING A PROBLEM**

1. Do I have the facts right? Proverbs 18:13 – “He who gives an answer before He hears, it is a folly and shame to him.”
2. Should love hide it? Is it sinful? Is it hindering growth? 1 Peter 4:8 “Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.” This is not a mask for someone’s sins but an issue of clearly violating God’s Word or determining one’s personal preferences. If it is a clear sin issue, then it should be discussed. A good question to ask is, “Is the person growing spiritually but made a wrong decision and are now growing from it?”
3. Is my timing right?
4. Is my attitude right? Am I trying to help the other person? You can be right, but if your attitude is proud and demanding, you will not solve the problem in a godly manner
5. Are my words loving?
6. Have I prayed for God’s help?
7. Do I need counsel from someone else before I try to solve the problem?