

What I Wish You Knew

“The Need for Communication”

(Psalm 133:1)

- Introduction:
1. One of the greatest frustrations we all experience is “not being understood.”
 2. Oftentimes these frustrations lead to disillusionment and can destroy the weak.
 3. During the next few weeks, I want us to verbalize what many of us may be thinking but may also be afraid to say for fear of being misunderstood.
 4. Some things are easier to say by a third party than saying it for oneself.

I. The Importance of Communication

- A. (Genesis 11:1-9).
1. One language – Communication (v. 1).
 2. United (v. 6).
 3. Willing to work (vs. 3,6).
 4. Result: it took an act of God to stop them (vs. 6-7).
- B. (Numbers 32:1-42).
1. Reuben and Gad ask Moses to allow them to settle on east side of the Jordan River.
 2. This angered Moses (v. 14).
 3. Reuben and Gad explained to Moses that he had misunderstood them (vs. 15-23).
- C. (2 Samuel 10:1-19).
1. David wanted to show kindness to the King of Ammon for the kindness his father had once showed him (v. 1)
 2. However, he became suspicious (vs. 3-4).
 3. His suspicion resulted in war (vs. 8-19).

II. Tips to Better Communication

- A. (Proverbs 15:1-7).
1. Remain calm and gentle (v. 1).
 2. Speak wisely and truthfully (v. 2).
 3. Remember, God is the judge and he will bring justice (v. 3).
 4. Use your words to help, not hurt (v. 4).
 5. Listen and remain teachable (v. 5).
 6. How you treat others impacts you (v. 6).
 7. Speak to increase truth and knowledge (v. 7).

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- B. (Acts 6:1-7).
 - 1. Don't allow a flawed attempt at communicating to be derailed, resulting in missing the message.
 - 2. Complaint (v. 1) is the same word used in Philippians 2:14.
 - a. Ills. Of "my church" or "joining the church," "going to church."
 - b. (Romans 2:16; Acts 9:26; church & synagogue).
 - C. (James 1:19).
 - 1. Listen.
 - 2. Be swift to hear, and slow to speak.
 - 3. Everyone can always have a say, but no one can always have their way.
 - 4. Solicit input.
 - D. (2 Samuel 12:1-15).
 - 1. Don't be defensive.
 - 2. Try to remove the "yeah, but..."
 - E. (John 16:12-13).
 - 1. Don't say too much, too soon.
 - 2. We must remember each other's backgrounds and spiritual maturity.
 - 3. (1 Corinthians 3:1-2; Hebrews 5:12).
- Conclusion:
- 1. Good communication skills encourages unity, and unity encourages belief in the gospel (John 17:20-21).
 - 2. In the next lesson we will start communicating things that need to be said so that we all have a better understanding of what our work is.

-- Steve Higginbotham