

Practical Tips for Effective Communication

“What saith the scripture” (Romans 4v3) about effective communicating? All of us have different reasons for needing to communicate effectively. It’s important to communicate with your spouse, your children, and other family members so that each person knows that you love them, what expectations are, etc. It’s also important to transmit information correctly and accurately to your boss, the people that work for you, or co-workers in order to get work done. Perhaps the most important reason to be a good communicator is so that you can give a crystal clear gospel presentation to a lost person of any age or education level.

In any job that I’ve held during my life, effective communication was a requirement. As an Army officer, I had to communicate orders to my Soldiers, send situation reports to my commanders, and interact with foreign allies either through an interpreter or in simplistic English (it often being a second language). In factory jobs that I’ve worked in, communicating with my team was also important in order to accomplish tasks and meet project deadlines. As a husband, father, and Christian who tries to get the gospel out to sinners, communication is also extremely important. So, “what saith the scripture?” on the subject, and are there any verses that could help us develop into better communicators? Here’s a few (of many!)

1. Remember who gave you the ability to speak and why.

God told Moses, **“Who hath made man’s mouth?...have not I the Lord?”** (Ex 4v11) Remember that the Lord made your mouth and your tongue and wants you to use it for His glory. It’s an “instrument” like nothing else in the universe. When used effectively the human voice can bring about any emotion within its listener, as well as persuade them into any action or inaction. Obviously these things can be used for evil (Satan in Eden, Hitler in the Munich beer halls, Mussolini on his balcony, etc), but God designed the human **“mouth”** for glory in order to speak **“the oracles of God”** (1 Peter 4v11) and **“speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long.”** (Psalm 35v28)

2. Slow down.

“Let every man be...slow to speak...” (James 1v19) Now it’s obviously important not to be hasty in your speech or be a fool who **“uttereth all his mind”** (his tongue is moving but his brain isn’t in gear yet!), but it’s also a good idea to do exactly what the verse says and be **“slow to speak,”** as in TALK SLOWLY. Different regions speak at different speeds of course, but generally, if you’ll slow down just a little bit, you’ll notice that the “um’s” and “ah’s” start disappearing on their own, and people start understanding you better. If you haven’t put thought into this before, why not practice talking slower than normal next time you’re telling someone about the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said **“Let these sayings sink down into your ears”** (Luke 9v44). By talking slowly, you’ll give your listener the chance to have the word of God “sink” into their ears. The term “sink” brings the connotation of the passage of time. A ship that sinks does not go from the

surface to the bottom of the sea in an instant. It's a process and it takes time. Words in the form of sound waves have to have to be picked up by the ear, transmitted to a part of the brain where they are interpreted and analyzed, etc etc so give that poor sinner a chance to let those words "sink" and slow down just a tad!

3. Speak with authority.

"He spake as one having authority and not as one of the scribes"

Speak like you know what you're talking about and be confident in the old AV. If you believe it and you're rightly dividing it, you'll know what you're talking about for the most part. Even if you're a little off on something, the AV Bible believer never need wonder what God SAID even if he needs wisdom about what He meant.

Here in America with everything trending towards the absence of any boundaries of any kind (for instance it's harder and harder to find music that fits within a distinct genre. It's all coalescing into different "fusions" of all kinds of stuff, and anyone with any sense will tell you that most it sounds pretty awful). People often inflect upwards at the end of a sentence, making every thing they say sound like a question. It sure makes it hard to decipher when they ask you an actual question, let me tell you! Why not just speak plainly? People should be able to hear the difference in a stated fact and a posed question.

Here in the U.S. it's perfectly fine to say some Socratic nonsense like "The only thing that I know for sure is that I know nothing for sure," but if you say anything **"with authority"** (doesn't even have to be from the Bible! It could be something generally true like "John Davis is a bald headed midget") you will probably face the wrath of social justice warriors who study ways of being offended by every little thing that is said. When one rejects what God said about questions like "why am I here? Where am I going? What's the meaning and purpose of life? What will happen when I die? Where do the dead go? Why is there evil in the world?" it tends she show up in how they talk about ANYTHING, not only in subject but can even affect rythmn, inflection, and other speech patterns.

However, if you have a perfect Bible and you believe what it says about sin, salvation, heaven, hell, and Jesus Christ, why wouldn't you talk "with a little bass in your voice!"