

VIDA NUEVA INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNICATION

Talk #8

Scripture Ref: II Cor. 4:13-15

Speaker Adult, 20 Minutes

Progression This talk follows the Christian Life talk and emphasizes the need for effective communications in building good relationships with others both within and outside the Christian community. If we are to live an effective Christian life and become leaders, teachers, etc in the community, and to share our faith with others, then we must know how to communicate.

Purpose Our everyday life would be impossible without communication. We have an inane desire to relate with/to other human beings. Generally, one's happiness is directly related to the ability to communicate. Failure to communicate creates family and social problems, and can cause people to isolate themselves. Our life in the Christian community is also impossible without communication. Communication helps make our relationship with Jesus and with others more real.

Introduction

Human life is impossible without communication. We are communal beings and there is an innate desire to relate with/to other human beings. Generally, one's happiness is directly related to the ability to communicate. Failure to communicate can create family and social problems, and can cause people to isolate themselves. Life in the Christian community is also impossible without communication. Communication helps make our fellowship with Jesus and others more real.

I. Our need to communicate

- A. Communication means taking a risk that you will be misunderstood.
- B. When communication is cut off, we can experience loneliness and emptiness.
- C. Good communication fosters understanding and gives us a sense of worth.
- D. Our fellowship is communicated in three ways (draw a triangle or arrows):
 - 1. God to people, as in the rainbow, the Word, the sacraments.
 - 2. People to God, as in prayer and worship.
 - 3. People to people, as in mutual support, witnessing, sharing in worship and singing, and study.

II. Lack of communication results in misunderstanding and problems

- A. Communications with family and friends.

1. Over half of all marriages end in divorce. Lack of communications is a major cause of divorce.
 2. Family and friendship troubles can injure self-esteem causing people to withdraw which results in even less communication.
 3. Share how communication (or lack of) has affected your family life or friendships. How did you feel when problems arose because of lack of communications?
- B. Communications with God.
1. When we don't communicate with God thru prayer, study, and worship, we are saying we don't need God in our life and without the guidance of God in our lives we are being influenced only by our own thinking and the pressures of the world.
 2. Can you share a time when you were not communicating with God? How did it affect your life?

III. Why do we have trouble communicating?

A. Being close-minded

A close-minded person doesn't want to hear the facts. They have already made up their mind. They think there is only one way to dress, one way to talk, one group of people to hang around with, or one life-style to live.

Jesus was faced with closed-minded people who didn't want anything to change. They had closed their minds to His message of love. (Matthew 12:1-14)

Let's look at some ways that we are open or close-minded:

1. Am I open or close-minded when talking with my parents? Do I really listen to them or close them out?
 2. Am I open or close-minded to criticism from family, friends, or others? Do I accept it or do I become defensive?
 3. Am I open or close-minded when dealing with those who are different? (For example: a different race.)
 4. Do I yield to pressure from others to be like them or to do something wrong, or am I open-minded to seek out and do what is right without fear of what others may think?
 5. Am I open to letting God change my life even though it may mean being laughed at or being different, or do I close God out of my life?
- B. Being fearful - Communications are hindered when we are fearful of the response of the person we are communicating with.
1. Fear that we will say the wrong thing or be misunderstood.
 2. Fear that we will lose that person's love.
 3. Fear that we will be hurt.
 4. Fear of punishment or discipline.

IV. Effective three-way communications will improve life situations.

- A. How do we communicate with God (people to/from God)?

1. God communicates with us in nature, such as the rainbow (Genesis 9:12-17)
 2. He also communicates thru Baptism, Communion, prayer, and His word.
 3. God guides us thru His word when communicating with Him (Mark 14:32-42) and with others (Matthew 7:1-5, 12).
 4. We communicate with God thru worship, songs, praise, prayer, etc. These express our love for God and one another.
 5. The way that we communicate with God can become a model for communicating with others.
- B. How do we communicate with others (people to people)?
1. We communicate with others thru words, actions, body language, and things.
 - a) Words allow us to express our views.
 - b) Actions show others who we really are. How we act is more important than what we say. (1 John 3:18)
 - c) Body language often communicates who we are and how we are feeling in a particular situation.
 - d) Things (possessions) communicate something about who we are and in some cases what we consider most important.
 2. We can use our friendships to improve our communications in other areas.
 - a) Express your thoughts to friends that you trust. Remember that a part of true friendship is honesty. These conversations can help you to discover if you are close-minded.
 - b) Our friends can help us to see both sides of an issue.
 - c) We can communicate God's love and forgiveness to others.
- D. Some of the marks of good communication are:
1. It is honest, sincere, and truthful.
 2. It is open-ended. It will build a foundation for further relationships.
 3. Be a good listener.

V. Some questions to think about

- A. How has communication been in your life, especially when you felt down?
- B. Have you been open-minded or close-minded when communicating with your family and friends?
- C. Have you asked God to show you where He wants you to be more open-minded, and to help you in those areas?
- E. Have you let God help you by showing you how to communicate with others?