



A Failure to
Communicate?.

River Road
Baptist
Church
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Reflections

Call Me! In this age of communication many people end their conversations with this closing comment. It seems to be a time in history when folks can't seem to stand the thought that they might not be able to contact someone at any time or in any place. Perhaps it's our need to be connected or our fear of being alone that compels us to talk, text, or e-mail one another continuously. In spite of all the technology that allows nearly instant communication, we still seem to be unable to really share our hearts and thoughts with each other. The more we talk the less we appear to communicate.

When Jesus talked with the multitudes of people that followed Him, He gave them the words of life yet many did not understand what He was saying. The Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees all heard the same words that the multitudes heard, but did not grasp the message or its application to themselves. Their self righteousness blinded them to their need for one to provide salvation for their sin-filled hearts. While some who followed Him readily received and accepted His message, the religious leaders of the day did not. Jesus noted their dilemma when He said... ***At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Matthew 11:25***

When He spoke of the wise and prudent, He was referring to those who had declared their own wisdom and their own wrong understanding of the Scriptures. They had perverted the message of salvation and had made of it a means to power and influence among the people. Jesus condemned them for their blind ambition, their spiritual blindness, and their pitiful self righteous attitudes that masked hearts filled with sin. The self important teachers were, in fact, violators of the very law that they worshipped. They rejected the one of whom the law and the prophets had spoken. Jesus challenged their faulty notions when He declared to them.... ***You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. John 3:39-40***

Just like the leaders of the Jews of old, we are often prone to misunderstand and to even purposely misinterpret the clear message of the Scripture. We try to twist it to avoid its true and direct communication of the reality of our sin and the power of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection in providing for us the only means of eternal life. We may use it to justify our own sinful practices and life choices even as we attempt to appear spiritual to those around us, but let's remember Paul's warning about the misuse of the Scripture. ***For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,...Romans 1:18***

We, having been given eternal salvation in Christ, have also been given the command to share that gospel. ***And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*** Now here is a great reason for us to communicate! It's not just idle chatter via cell phone, text messaging, or e-mail, it is the best and most important reason to talk to our family, friends, and the world in which we live.

So, you like to communicate do you? How about starting with a life that is lived in obedience to Christ's commands. If we spent just a fraction of our communication time reading the Word of God, we would have a lot more to share with the world around us in both word and deed. In listening to the word of the Savior calling us to live lives set apart to glorify Him, our talk, our walk, and all our other efforts to communicate could be more valuable, more influential for Christ, and there would be fewer reasons for those around us to call us hypocrites.

Maybe some of those text messages, you know the ones, could say something like this. ***U need Jesus! IPFY. (I'm praying for you.)*** Just think, if every Christian used just a fraction of their talk time to share Christ, and if their lifestyle became a good representation of a changed life through their relationship with Jesus, they might reap the pure reward of a friend led to faith in Christ. On the other hand, if we keep silent about the Lord and fill our communications with silly, sensual and foolish words and ideas, then we ought not be too surprised when people to whom we try to introduce Christ look at us and respond: ***lol.*** *(laughing out loud)* **Pastor Doug**