

COMMUNICATION – PEACEMAKERS – PART 2

Introduction – We must use our skills at communication to promote peace in every area of our lives. It starts with being good listeners and careful communicators.

Matthew 5:7-9

A. Our attitude matters in seeking reconciliation as peacemakers.

Matthew 5:21-24

1. We can kill a person's spirit with our words and God will place us among the murders.
2. If we express contempt and speak out of anger, we will alienate others.
3. Antagonistic people who constantly disturb the peace in every area of their lives will be subject to the judgment of God.
4. Reconciliation with others is essential for our worship to be acceptable.
5. If someone has something against you, do not wait for them to come to you – instead you take the first step.
6. Remember that the goal is reconciliation, not proving yourself right or winning an argument.
7. We need to show the same merciful attitude toward others that was shown us in Christ.

B. The Process of Reconciliation

Matthew 18:15-17

1. If a person "sins" or "sins against you" according to various manuscripts, then take the first step of personal contact to clarify the situation.
2. Our natural tendencies are to obsess over the problem or complain to sympathetic ears.
3. Step two is after someone in your family, neighborhood, office, or congregation blows you off when you try to talk civilly to them. Then it is time to get others involved.
4. Two or three objective observers can witness the next interaction to help reconciliation occur.

5. If any person rejects the attempt to resolve the issue even when others encourage it, then treat them as an untrustworthy, hard-hearted person. This doesn't mean we treat them badly, but keep them at arm's length.

Conclusion – God wants us to be peacemakers who understand how to resolve any issue if the parties are willing. It takes a simple clear step-by-step process to resolve real problems. You do not need to have the answer for every problem, only a realistic process in mind for potential reconciliation.

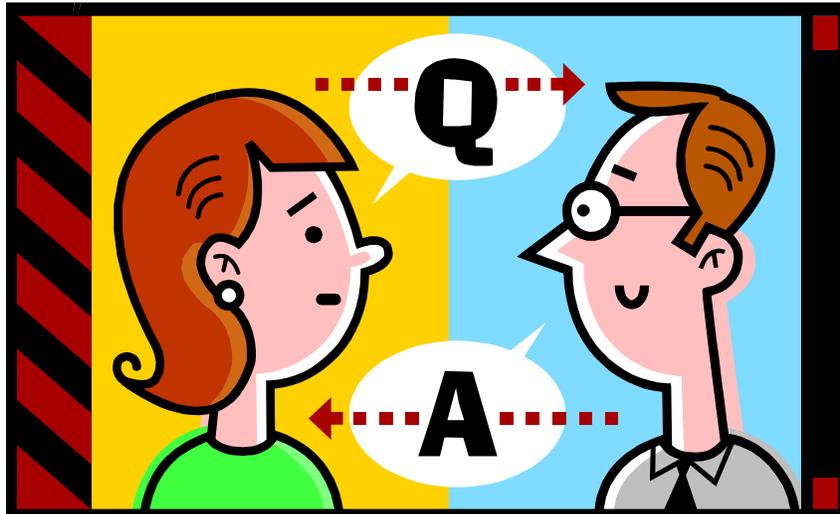
Complexity of Communication

Sender of Message

Idea

Chooses Words

Communicates (verbally and non-verbally)



Receiver of Message

Selectively Listens

Interprets

Forms Idea