

Keys to Communication Practicing the Principles of Proverbs

Pastor Dan Haakenson
Monday, July 25, 2005

- I. Introduction
 - A. Review
 - "Key #1" – Tell the Truth
 - "Key #2" – Speak with Kindness
 - B. Tonight: Key #3 Listen Well
- II. **Listen well by talking less**
(Prov.10:19; 17:27-28; James 1:19; also see: Prov.10:10; 11:12; 21:23)
- III. **Listen well by understanding more**
(Prov. 18:2; 18:13; 20:5; also see 18:17; 20:25)
- IV. **Listen well by gaining wisdom**
 - A. Receive correction
(Prov. 9:8-10; 15:31-33; also see: 10:8,17; 12:1; 13:1,18; 15:5; 17:10; 19:25,27; 21:11; 25:12)
 - B. Receive counsel
(Prov. 12:15; 15:22; also see: 1:5; 11:14; 13:10; 18:15; 19:20; 20:18; 22:17-21; 24:6)
 - C. Reject corruption
(See: 1:10-16; 2:12-19 [note how this is set up by 2:1-11]; chapters 5-7 [note especially 5:1-3; 6:24; 7:5,21]; 9:13-18; 22:14; 24:1,2) In contrast, we should listen to God's Word—
Prov. 28:9; James 1:19f
- V. Becoming a person who listens well
 - A. The roots of listening well are unselfishness and humility. The power behind those is the Gospel. (Phil 2)
 - B. The fruits of listening well in your family

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Discussion Questions

1. In your relationships, what difference does it make if someone is listening well or if they are not?
2. What, from your experience, are the characteristics of someone who “listens well”? How do those characteristics relate to the Proverbs we’ve seen?
3. Review Proverbs 10:19 (and the other verses under “talking less”). How have you seen that principle played out?
4. What insights do the Proverbs give you into “understanding more” (review the verses in the outline)?
5. What specific application do you most need to practice to understand more?
6. How do you generally respond when someone corrects you? How do the Proverbs (9:8-10; 15:31-33; etc.) guide or challenge you in this area?
7. Who are those people in your life from whom you receive counsel (see Proverbs 12:15; 15:22, etc.)? Does this Growth Group function in that way, or can it?
8. Where would you most need to apply the Proverbs principle of “rejecting corruption” and not listening to the voices of those who would seek to lead us astray?
9. Which of these principles from Proverbs (on listening well) is most important for you to put into practice? How can the group encourage and support you in that?