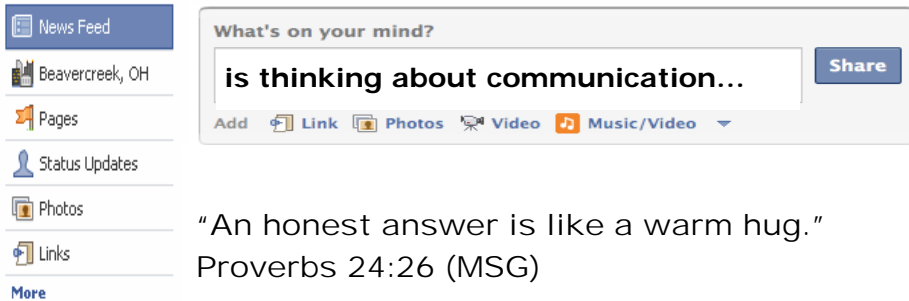




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creating spiritual networks




Fourth Principle: Communicate from the heart.

Principles for healthier communication.

"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." Colossians 4:6 (NIV)


1. Healthy communication uses words and...

Pictures




"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us." Romans 12:4-6 (NIV)

Questions




"Then he asked them, 'Who do you think I am?'" Mark 8:29 (LB)

Touch



"Jesus reached out and touched the man and said, 'Of course I will. Be healed.' And the leprosy left him instantly." Luke 5:13 (LB)




"And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them." Mark 10:16 (NIV)




2. Healthy communication is not easy.

When criticized Jesus gave clear, confident responses.




(Jesus said...) "I am the Light of the world" (Pharisees responded...) "You are boasting and lying! (Jesus told them...) "These claims are true" (They replied) Where is your father? (Jesus answered...) "You don't know who I am, so you don't know who my Father is." John 8:12-19

When doubted Jesus offered proof.




"Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands...I will not believe it.' A week later...Jesus came and stood among them (and said to Thomas)... 'see my hands...Stop doubting and believe.'" John 20:24-27 (NIV)

When ridiculed Jesus was silent.




"When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, 'Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?' But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge to the great amazement of the governor." Matthew 27:12-14 (NIV)

3. Healthy communication is founded on trust.




"Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." Matthew 5:33-37 (NIV)

4. Healthy communication flows from a healthy heart.




"For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him." Matthew 12:34-35 (NIV)



"Your souls aren't harmed by what you eat, but by what you think and say!" Mark 7:15 (LB)

5. Healthy communication makes a positive impact.



"I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken." Matthew 12:36-37 (NIV)



"Reliable communication permits progress." Proverbs 13:17 (LB)