

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNICATION

1. _____ (Proverbs 1:5; 18:13)
 - Self-Centered Listener (Proverbs 5:7-14; 12:1, 23; 13:1; 15:32; 17:10)
 - Attentive Listener (Proverbs 4:20-22; 2:1-22; 8:33-36; 15:28; 18:15; James 1:19)

2. _____ (Ephesians 4:15, 25)
 - If we cannot speak the truth kindly, it is not God's time for us to speak that truth!
 - Not about getting something selfishly off my chest (Ephesians 4:29)
 - Not about "venting" to "feel" better (James 3:2-12, Proverbs 29:11)

3. _____ (Ephesians 4:26-27)
 - Carrying anger overnight becomes bitterness, resentment, hatred - all relationship destroyers!
 - We may not be able to solve the problem, but we can and should address our attitude & commitment to the relationship.
 - Each day has enough trouble on its own - don't add today's to tomorrows (Matthew 6:34).

4. _____ (Ephesians 4:29-30)
 - We attack the person by blame shifting, saying critical or negative things about their character, abilities, appearance, etc. (self-centered response)
 - We attack the problem by seeking for solutions with actions and/or attitudes that deal with factual information, not feelings. (God and others-centered response)

5. _____ (Ephesians 4:31-32)
 - React - judging the event from the perspective of how it affects ME. This produces sinful anger, resentment, bitterness, slander, malice, wrath, etc.
 - Respond - judging the event from the perspective of how it affects the cause of Christ and the others involved. Responding senses the NEED behind the action and responding in love, kindness, compassion, forgiveness, etc.