

Introduction: Last week we considered briefly 8 common marriage problems. This week begin to consider the topic of communication. Communication is something that is so a part of us, we perhaps don't even think much about it.

- I want to lay the groundwork today for a biblical theology of words.
- The focus is going to be on verbal and written communication, though there are others ways to communicate (i.e. body language, silence, etc.)

## I. THE WORDS OF GOD

- Our words and communication are rooted in Theology

### A. God's Word in Eternity “Past”

- The doctrine of the Trinity is the belief that the Godhead is three persons, eternally existent, in perfect relationship
- There was community, perfect delight and enjoyment. Here is the foundation for community within man.
- Non-Trinitarian belief is that there is but one person, dwelling eternally alone, without communication and communion.
- Two key passages in seeing the Son and the Father in communion Jn1:1 (notice He is “the Word”) Jn17:5

### B. God's Word in Creation

- One of the most significant things about Christianity is “God has spoken.” God a talking God.
- God isn't said merely to will things into existence, but He speaks - 10x in Gen1; Heb11:3
- This distinguishes the true God from false gods - Psalms 115:5
- This communication is Trinitarian Gen1:26 God said “Let us...” (created in God's image Gen5:1, not the angels) Gen3:44 God said “the man has become like one of us”
- God's first recorded words to humanity are found in Gen1:28
- In Gen2:16 God spoke to the man giving a command, and warning of the consequence of disobedience

### C. God's Word In the Fall

- Gen3:9 When God comes into the Garden after the disobedience, He asks a question “where are you?” God already knew the answer, but uses His Word to convict and bring them out from hiding. He continues to ask questions both of the man and the woman.
- When God addresses each individual to declare the sentence on them “He said...”

### D. God's Word in Redemption

- Gen 3:16 Even in the curse and promise of salvation, God spoke words
- The rest of the Bible is God's gracious dealing with humanity. He continues to communicate, and does so in a variety of forms through the human writers: historical stories/narratives, poetry, instruction, analogy, visions, dreams, parables. Even when He reveals something by visible representation (i.e. the prophets), He then interprets with words.

*Before He works, God reveals what he is about to do; as he is working, he talks of what He is doing; and when He has finished, He interprets what He has done. – Paul Tripp, War of Words*

- Heb1:1ff The clearest The Word of God in human flesh; 1Jn1:1 the Word of life
- 1Cor1:21 The word proclaimed (based on the Word written) as the hope of salvation.
- Jn10:16 (Eph2:17) It is through that Word preached that many others hear the voice of Christ and are brought salvation
- God's use of words and communication points us not only to the importance of words in His purposes, but also of His written Word.

*Reading can never die out among Christians. This is because the whole Christian revelation centers around a book. – Ken Myers, Reading Between the Lines*

- One of the most destructive ideas of “post-modernism” is the degrading of words. Supposedly, we can't really know what the author or speaker intends. It is what it means “to me” without any objective meaning.

## II. THE WORDS OF MEN

### A. Man's Words in Creation

- From the beginning, we were created as speaking and communicated beings. Essential to our understanding of who we are is our being created in God's image – Gen1:26

- Part of that image bearing capacity is the ability to think and the ability to communicate our ideas and feelings with words. We were given this capacity for the purpose communing (i.e. communicating) with God and with others.

*Language is the basis for all communication and so lies at the heart of any personal relationship (whether God or man). We can never know anyone intimately by simply being in that person's presence. We need to have a conversation in order to share our thoughts and our personalities. – Myers*

- This is something that distinguishes us from animals. There is communication, but it is not of the same kind.
- The first recording communication is Adam naming the animals [Gen2:19](#).
- The next communication recorded is Adam responding to the creation of the woman [Gen2:23](#).

### B. Man's Words in the Fall

- It appears that soon after these things take place, the purpose of words (to foster communion and community/oneness) is twisted and abused. In [Gen 3:1](#) it is said Satan is cunning, and he shows that cunning by the way he speaks. He asks a questions which lead to a questioning of God's goodness (Has God said...), truthfulness (you will not die), and wisdom (He knows).
- This is the first “war of words.” What He begins, the man and woman continue. Words follow which shifting blame on one another and on God. In the following narrative, Cane uses words to persuade his brother to come to a place where he can kill him in “secret” (though God knew).
- As we follow the unfolding story of the Bible, we see that the use of words is very important. A few examples: false witness (lying) is forbidden in one of the 10 commandments ([Ex20:16](#)). We are told that from the womb we go astray, speaking lies ([Ps58:3](#)). The false prophets speak lying words ([Jer7:4](#)). In the NT Jesus says that all people will give an account for “every idle word” in the day of judgment ([Mt12:36](#)). Satan is identified as a liar and deceiver ([Jn8:44](#)). Ananias and Sapphira are killed by the Lord for lying ([Acts5:4](#)). The measure of true religion is the use of the tongue ([Jm1:26](#)) and we are to speak as those who will be judged by the law of liberty ([Jm2:12](#)). Liars have their place in the lake of fire together with murderers, sexually immoral, and idolaters ([Rev21:8](#)).
- There is a war of word taking place, and it is a matter of life and death. Why is this so serious a matter? Because our words are a display of our heart ([Lk6:45](#)). It is serious because death and life are in the power of the tongue ([Prov18:21](#) [Jm3:8](#)).
- We will never take our words and communication seriously until we feel something of the weight of these realities.

### C. Man's Words in Redemption

- What can we do? What is to be done with such sobering realities? God has given us speech to communicate for the purpose of His glory and the doing of good. Part of God's redemptive plan is not only to redeem us, but to redeem our words. Christ died for the purpose of enabling our words to be transformed and used for good.
- How does this work? What do we need for this kind of transformation?
- First and foremost, to have a love for God's Word – [Ps119:97](#) [Col3:16](#)
- Second, to in turn have our words transformed – [Eph4:25, 29](#)
- It is to speak the words of truth and reason [Acts 26:25](#)
- We are in great danger of losing this in our culture. We live in an increasingly image influenced and based culture. Even where there is communication (news stories, E-mails, text messaging) often mere summaries of and replacement for real deep communication. We are losing the ability for prolonged and deep thought about things, and things come in “sound bites.”
- We need to take communication seriously. To teach young people (and ourselves) how to communicate, speaking in complete sentences.
- We must seek to communicate with our spouse, our children, other Christians, to the world.
- We have the privilege of the power of God's Word in our mouth to be instruments of redemption and edification of others.
- We are in danger of replacing communication with TV, music, entertainment, and events, rather than communing.
- Communication as art, to be honed and labored at.
- The church is one of the remaining places where verbal communication and thought should be taking place, but the sermon and teaching is increasingly decreased in length and content.
- Recommended reading: , Ken Myer's [Reading Between the Lines](#) (especially chs.1 & 2)