

## **COMMUNICATING WITH TEENS** (And Others)

**Request:** Could you help me understand how to communicate better with my teen-ager?

Let me suggest that a communication problem doesn't just begin when someone crosses an imaginary line in life such as age. There will be a lot of changes in life that will require adjustments and new learning experiences. This is one of them in your life! Let me tell you that you can resolved it before your child leaves adolescence. But remember that this period of adolescence lasts only 7 years (13-19 yrs).

If you want to enjoy this part of your child's life, understand that there may be four parts to resolving this problem.

1. One part of the problem involves moving into new territory of adolescent parenting without planning for it.
  - We plan ahead for birth, school, college but not adolescence even when others tell us that it is a time of STORM AND STRESS.
  - Actually, you should be developing and explaining your teen game plan during ages 10-12.
2. A second part of the problem involves eliminating episodes of carnal dealing with teens.
  - I hear parents of teen's talk about "losing it."
  - I want to suggest that there is already a negative pattern of dealing with pressure frustrations in your life.
3. A third part of the problem involves communication.
  - How much of your communication is negative as compared to positive?
  - How much of your communication involving problems is constructive, uplifting, and edifying?
4. A fourth part of the problem involves too much old man cosmos diabolicus (OMCD) thinking.
  - OMCD behavior conflicts with adolescence emerging into adulthood.
  - New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) thinking should be applied to driving, dating, defiance, discipline, detention, delinquency, and the inhale of doctrine.

When children enter adolescence, parents sometimes forget that he is emerging from the cocoon of childhood with the wings of adulthood. The way you are treating him is the way you are treating other adults in your sphere of intimate of relationships.

I believe God may be telling you that you need to learn to communicate better with all the intimate relationships in your adult life.

Paul addressed this problem in Eph.5:25-32 when dealing with psychological sin problems that were keeping relationships in turmoil in the church of Ephesus.

The structure of the Greek grammar of Eph.5:25-32 lays out steps to building a healthy relationship.

**This lesson will study the important steps to developing healthy intimate relationships**

1. **Our lesson text opens with the illative conjunction (dio) 'because of this'.**
  - It refers back to what was taught in 4:20-24.
  - The emphasis of 4:20-24 is how to get rid of OMCD and put on NMDV so that we can apply the TRUTH OF JESUS to the CWL (4:21, 24, 25) aletheia (John 8:32; 14:6).
2. **Within these 8 verses there are 11 Greek imperative moods.**
  - These imperatives are written into the following three sections dealing with changing negatives (OMCD) to positives (NMDV) in order to develop healthy relationships.

**1. The first negative is falsehood (to pseudos)** – we are instructed to **put it off** (apotithemi / a.m.ptc / 4:22) this teaches that we are to put off falsehood from the ultimate source of oneself. It stands in opposition to TRUTH (aletheia). We are instructed to abandon the lies of OMCD (system of thinking). This is the lie that is in you as well as to you about life and God.

- Lay aside falsehood is followed by **two positives** in 4:25-27: communicate and anger without sin.
  - Speak (laleo / p.a.impv) communicate truth each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another (4:25).
  - Be angry (orgizo / p.p.impv / permissive imperative) – anger that is provoked by falsehood within others or within self. But don't get in the flesh and fight flesh with the flesh!
- There is a paratactical disjunctive sequent (me, me, mede) associated with the **next three p.a.impv** that warn the believer against taking justified anger into personal sin (James 1:14-15).
  - Yet do not sin (me hamartano)
  - Do not let the sun go down on your anger (parorgimos / resentment, indignation, exasperation associated with the reaction to the falsehood).
  - And do not give the devil an opportunity (topos) a room that a person or thing can occupy. (Luke 2:7). (no room at the Inn).

**2. The second negative is unwholesome word** (me / sarpos / pas logos) corrupt, rotten, putrid, destructive not edifying. (4:29-30) “Let no unwholesome word proceed (ekporeuomai / p.m.impv) from your mouth.”

“Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.” (Ps.34:13)

“He who guards his mouth and his tongue. Guards his soul from troubles.” (Prov.21:23)

- Unwholesome words is followed by **two positives** in 4:29-30: edify hearer and don't grieve Holy Spirit.
  - “But (alla / conjunction of contrast) only **such a word as is good** (agathos) **for (pros+acc** of divine purpose) **edification** (oikodome) according to the need (tes chreia) of the moment, that (**hina** of divine purpose) it may give grace to those who hear.”
  - “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.” (Prov.16:24)
- “And **do not grieve** (me / lupeo / p.a.impv) the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (4:30)

**3. The third negative is 6 sins that destroy relationships: (The Six Pack of Sins)** bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and malice (4:31-32). The point that Paul is making is that when FALSEHOOD (OMCD deceit) remains unchecked it leads to UNWHOLESOME WORDS that leads to this SIX PACK of sins that destroy relationships.

- The **Six Pack of Sins** that destroys relationships is followed by **two positives**: put OMCD away and become NMDV.
  - **Put away (airo / a.p.impv)** – it is the only imperative that is aorist and points back to the importance of putting off the falsehood of OMCD of 4:25.
  - **Become (p.a.impv / NMDV / put on)**: kind (chrestos) and tenderhearted (eusplagchnos) and forgiving (charizomai).