

SERMON SERIES: **HOME IMPROVEMENT**

TODAY'S MESSAGE: **Better Communication 2**

TEXT: **Ephesians 4:25-5:20**

1. Communication and language came from God.
 - ☞ Man did not LEARN to communicate, but was created with the ABILITY to both listen and speak! (Gen 1:26-28; 2:16-24; 3:1-3, etc.)
 - ☞ And, man spoke WELL from the very beginning!
 - ☞ However, there was on big difference in communication then: Only ONE language and FEW words! (Gen 11:1-6)
 2. According to God Himself, those “ancients” at Babel had two things going for them: (Gen 11:1-6)
 - ☞ UNITY—they were ONE people, united in purpose!
 - ☞ COMMUNICATION—they had ONE language!
 - ☞ God admitted that they could ACCOMPLISH anything they set their minds to!
 3. Unfortunately, although their communication was good, their project was NOT! (Gen 11:7-9; 10:25)
 - ☞ Their PLAN, not God's; for their GLORY, not God's!
 - ☞ So, God CONFUSED and SCATTERED them!
- [NOTE: God's plan through Christ makes us one people with one language again! (Acts 2; John 10:16; 17:20; Eph 2:11-22; 4:4-6)]
4. We in the church can learn from what happened at Babel:
 - ☞ With good communication we can accomplish ANYTHING! And, without it, VERY LITTLE!
 - ☞ Think about it: If they could accomplish anything in a HUMAN endeavor, imagine what we can accomplish in the DIVINE endeavor of building up Christ's church! (Phil 2:12-13; 4:13; Eph 3:20; 1 Cor 15:58)
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5. Church, let's take aim at better communication by ...
 - ☉ staying on the _____—using God's Word as our _____! (Mat 17:5; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor 1:19-10; 14:33; 1 Pet 4:10-11; 1 Pet 4:11; 2 Tim 3:16-17)
 - ☉ communicating _____ (Acts 6:1-7; Amos 3:3; Eph 4:11-16). This makes _____ possible!
 - ☉ _____ to each other and _____ what others have to say. (James 1:19; Phil 2:3-5).
Transmission – _____ ≠ communication!
 - ☉ using our words to unite and _____; not to _____ and divide! (Eph 4:25-5:20)
 - ↑ Communication that builds up is the language we speak, “_____!” It's a language of ...
 - 1) _____ (Eph 4:15; 1 Cor 16:14)
 - 2) _____ & HONESTY (Eph 4:15,25)
 - 3) PRAISE (Heb 13:15) & _____ (Eph 5:4,19-20; Col 3:15-17)
 - 4) _____ (Heb 10:24; 1 Thes 5:11)
 - 5) _____ & CORRECTION (1 Thes 5:14; 2 Tim 2:25; Gal 6:1-2; 3:16-17)
 - ↓ Communication that tears down includes ...
_____, _____, angry _____, complaint, _____, slander, _____, flattery, mockery, _____ criticism, etc.

[From Phil 2:14-16 & Col 4:2-6 we see that our words can open or close _____; it can shine or dim the _____ of Christ!]

MESSAGE WRAP-UP: In Jesus Christ, we are created to be _____ people with _____ language; and He is able to make that happen, if we will just _____!