

Seven Laws of the Teacher – Part 4: Communication

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I. Introduction.

A. Books on communication display “a singular incapacity to communicate themselves.”

B. An example of giving directions.

1. Make sure nothing goes unexplained.
2. We need to have a healthy respect for the process of communication.
 - a. You will pray more if this is the case.
 - b. You will study and work much harder.
 - c. You will learn to trust God at a greater level.

C. Communication is our business.

1. The word comes from a Latin word meaning “common.”
 - a. We have to establish what is in common before we communicate.
 - b. We have to build bridges.

II. Stages to communicating well.

A. All communication begins with a concept, feeling, action.

1. Three components: something you know, feel, and do.
 - a. The greatest asset to an evangelical Christian is that he has a great body of truth; the problem is that most of us settle on intellectual communication.
 - 1) There is a difference between emotions and emotionalism.
 - 2) Emotion is valuable.
 - b. Utilizing all three components makes you an effective communicator.
 - c. We are not simply trying to communicate a word message—it is a life message.
2. Two forms of communication:
 - a. Verbal.

1) Spoken.

a) An advantage is the opportunity to answer questions.

b) A problem is that it leaves much ambiguous and cannot be revisited much.

2) Written.

a) More communication needs to be conveyed in this form as it lasts longer and can be revisited.

b. Nonverbal.

1) What you say must be in harmony with what you do—Jesus was the model for this.

a) We communicate by words alone 7%, by tone of voice even more, and by body language 55%.

b) It is important to communicate by life and words—you cannot fly a plane with only one wing.

B. The three aspects need to be translated and communicated in speech.

1. Involves Preparation.

a. Your material needs to be packaged.

1) Begin with an introduction.

2) You need your own illustrations from your own lifestyle and from your audience's lives.

3) End with a conclusion.

2. Involves Presentation.

a. Annunciation.

b. Voice.

1) Volume - imagine that someone in the back of the audience cannot hear.

2) Vary your pitch and your speed.

c. Gestures.

1) The secret to good gestures is feeling it in the gut. It demonstrates that you are enjoying your presentation.

d. Distraction.

- 1) Those within the individual—those you cannot control (attitudes, personal circumstances, etc).
- 2) Those within the environment (temperature, room arrangement, etc).
 - a) You must anticipate things and prepare ahead of time.
 - b) Whatever you can do to illuminate these distractions will aid in the communication.

C. Two parts to communication.

1. Listening.

- a. Listening is prominent in the Scriptures, but it is the hardest thing to teach.
- b. The wise man hears the word, and he does it. (James)
- c. Combining your speaking with visualizations helps them to listen.
 - 1) Note the large amount of parables that Jesus uses for illustrations.

2. Translating into one's own words.

- a. The receiver needs to know how to communicate the concepts on their own so the knowledge becomes theirs.
- b. We are teaching students only to feed us back our words.

3. Begins with a concept, feeling, action, and ends with the same.

- a. It is not what you think, feel, and do—the test of communication is what they are thinking, feeling, doing.

D. Feedback.

1. It is important that the communicator receives feedback.
2. Ask the audience what they know in their own words to find out how well you are communicating.
3. We tend only to listen to those that that listen to us and enjoy us; it is often better to receive feedback from those who do not compliment us.
4. The purpose of communication is not to impress—it is to impart. We need not to convince, but to change.
5. The focus needs to be on the student and what is happening with her.

Application questions:

1. In light of the speaker's message, what areas of communication do you think you do well with? In what areas might you improve in?

2. What are some creative ways you can use to illustrate a point without using words? What are some creative illustrations that you might be able to employ in your speaking engagements?

3. How can you make feedback a more consistent goal following your presentations? What ways can you prepare to handle negative feedback graciously? How can you put the feedback you receive into practice?
