

April 3, 2016

## A Conversational Template

Text: Ephesians 4:29 and Prov. 10:19

PEW Bible Page 1822

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building up others according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (Ephesians 4:29)

WE NEED TO AVOID \_\_\_\_\_ TALK

The Greek word that is translated *unwholesome* or *corrupt* is *sapros*, and it is used elsewhere to describe bad fruit or, even worse, bad fish. Ref: 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:16

WE NEED TO \_\_\_\_\_ OTHERS

The Greek word translated edifying or building up is *oikodomayne*. Ref: Proverbs 12:18

WE NEED TO BE AN \_\_\_\_\_ OF GRACE

Our goal in conversation is to help them move *up* a peg or two, in the direction of God's grace, so that they can experience a closer walk with Christ. That's what it means to be an agent of his grace.

...and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. (Isaiah 58:12)

This is our template for conversation: we do away with all corrupt communication and all unwholesome talk, we focus instead on building up others so that they can experience God's grace in the moment.

Three practical guidelines you can follow that will help you be more effective in your conversations and communications.

1. Be \_\_\_\_\_ Ref: Proverbs 17:27; Matthew 6:7; Psalm 141:3

2. Be \_\_\_\_\_ Ref: Titus 3:2 ESV; Galatians 6:1; Philippians 4:5

Sometimes you think you have to be harsh to get through. But you need to remember that their being wrong never justifies your being wrong.

The more right you are, the more gentle you need to be. The more the other person needs to hear what you have to say, the more gentle you need to be.

It's interesting that Paul appealed to his gentleness as evidence of his authority ... as proof of the validity of his ministry. 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2

3. Be \_\_\_\_\_ Ref: Proverbs 15:23; Eph. 4:29

The question we need to ask in each situation: What does this person need to hear now, so that they might experience God's grace?

Unloading our pent-up rage on others is never an option. Our conversations really aren't about us saying what we think we need to say. Our conversations are about saying what the other person needs to hear. Ref: Matthew 12:36-37