



WEEKLY SERMON

Volume No. 2023 Issue No. 39
October 29, 2023

Sunday October 29, 2023
Pastor David Miklas
Message: The Christian Home

Phone: 717-715-3317
E-mail: pastormiklas@aol.com
Text: Ephesians 4:25-32

In Matthew 7:7-11 we read, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: (8) For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. (9) Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? (10) Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? (11) If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”

1. **We should pray** to acknowledge God. Not to pray is a denial of God, a denial of His existence, a denial of His nature, and a denial of His purposes toward mankind.
2. **We should pray** in order to consider His will. When men reflect upon what God is and upon what they are, and honestly confess their own failures in view of God's character, they naturally find it easy to submit to the will of God.
3. **We should pray** to partner with God. To co-labor means that "we are on the same team partnering to do God's work."
4. **We should pray** because all good relationships are built on good communication. Having a personal relationship with God means that we are aware that God is present and without ceasing, we bring Him into the conversation.
5. **We should pray** because God wants to observe our passion and sincerity.
6. **We should pray** to leverage our life.
7. **We should pray** because prayer teaches us that God wants us to obey Him.
8. **We should pray** because prayer helps us to see and appreciate God's promises.
9. **We should pray** because, for some strange reason, God loves our company.

We need a **prayer life**, not a prayer time. When we have a **prayer life** we will automatically have a prayer time. Prayer is not just visiting with God, it is living with God. No solid growth can take place in the Christian life unless there is growth in our prayer life. No growth in our prayer life occurs until we realize that effective prayer is hard work, and we are willing to work hard.

“Prayer does not change things; prayer changes people!”

The next time you are tempted to sin, think about Jesus praying for you in heaven – praying “that your faith should not fail.”

If you are seeking Gods will, pray without ceasing and let God answer as He will. Remember, before there are answers, there must be asking. We ask, He answers.

Someone wrote, “Prayer is a mighty instrument, not for getting man’s will done in heaven, but for getting God’s will done on earth.

Pray With Your Children

In I Thessalonians 5:16-18 we read, “**Rejoice evermore. (17) Pray without ceasing. (18) In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**” Perhaps you've never prayed with your children. But no matter how old they are, it's never too late to start. It helps to remember that prayer is simply a conversation with God. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

Newspaper Prayer. Try this idea at the beginning of the day as you're eating breakfast. Have each family member take a portion of the newspaper and circle items that he or she feels need to be prayed for.

Sentence Prayer: You can help your children pray aloud by giving them a sentence to complete, such as:

"Lord, I thank you for..."

"Lord, forgive me for..."

"Lord, help me be more..."

"Lord, help me to let go of ..."

"Lord, give me the courage to..."

"Lord, one of the fears I need help with is ..."

Highs and Lows: Ask your children what their "highs" were from the day, and then ask them about their "lows" from the day. Share your highs and lows as well, and then pray for them together.

Prayer Journal: Share your prayer requests with the other members of your family and then record them in a prayer journal. One person can pray for all the requests you've listed for the day. The next time you pray together, look over the requests you listed previously and update any changes and answers. This is a good way to see how God has been active in your prayer lives.

A.C.T.S. Prayer: This is a well-known form of prayer that is easy to remember:

A - stands for "**adoration.**" Begin the prayer by simply adoring God for who He is.

C - stands for "**confession.**" Spend some time confessing your sins.

T - stands for "**thanksgiving.**" Take time to thank God for the blessings that He has given to you and your family.

S - stands for "**supplication.**" Lift up specific areas of your life in which you need God to supply for your needs.

In *His* Amazing Grace,
Pastor David Miklas

We do not, nor will we ever charge for the Weekly SERMON. However if these messages have been a blessing to you, and you can help with the monetary cost of this endeavor for the Lord, we appreciate and thank you for your PRAYERS and FINANCIAL SUPPORT. Yes, at times I need to extend my hand to give you an opportunity to extend financial support to enable us to carry on this ministry of extending the Word of God to others.

For financial accountability we are handling all ministry funds through the **Trinity Baptist Church of Lititz, PA**. (Mailing address: Bible Baptist Ministry, 14 United Zion Circle, Lititz, PA 17543) Checks made out to the Trinity Baptist Church with a memo to Bible Baptist Ministry will be tax deductible for you and placed to the account for this ministry.

"How to have a Good Argument and Keep it Clean"

INTRODUCTION: The two items at the top of a list of family problems are **FINANCES** and **COMMUNICATION**. Experts tell us that there are three basic elements to good communication - **TALKING, LISTENING,** and **UNDERSTANDING**. Everyone knows how to define talking, but talking does not necessarily guarantee communication. As someone said, "Talking is easy, anyone can do it, but communication is hard work."

Now communicating always requires at least **TWO** people. One doing the listening and the other doing the talking. Unfortunately, even in our Christian homes, talking has stopped and we have become engaged in a verbal boxing match during which we fight for our self-centered, selfish rights.

Here is a fact we must not overlook, most fights are **not** fair, so no one wins and both lose. In these fights couples resort to unbiblical dirty tactics, to physical and verbal abuse as you slam one another to the mat with ugly rejecting statements.

Let's face it. Disagreements are part of marriage. We have to be realistic, when two strong, independent people flow together at the altar; a lot of power is generated. Suddenly, in some cases, a virtual hell breaks loose and the couple wonders what happened. However, it is a natural problem that has to be worked through.

Now, before we move into our text let me identify several weapons that all of us, from time to time, have used that destroy communication and provoke a fight. These need to be carefully avoided.

First: Explosions are an open invitation to an argumentative spirit, and lead to more damage.

Second: Tears are very popular with women where the underlying words are, "If you push me too far, my frustration will cause tears." By now you know that once the dam breaks, communication comes to a screeching halt.

Third: Criticism is usually a forceful, off-balance attack against your partner's character that immediately stifles communication.

Fourth: Silence is a weapon that usually takes one of two forms – retreat or resentment. Silence out of either is deadly, since it indicates a very angry individual.

Fifth: Endless chatter is where one who can't stand silence will talk endlessly about nothing. One day a husband, having listened to his wife talk incessantly for an hour, walked over to her, putting his hands over her mouth and said, "Sweetheart, I love you, I love you, but please my ears need a rest!"

If the truth be known, not some, but most marriages are marked by periodic skirmishes, occasionally an all-out war. Frequently, the martial warfare is in the trenches of belligerence or moodiness. Some battles are "night attacks" or surprise assaults. Whatever popular tactics may be used it is **WRONG** because they are unfair and they never lead to domestic peace. It may be impossible to stamp out fighting completely, but in this message we want to learn the rules that can keep an argument clean.

Now the question. How can we, who will undoubtedly have these argumentative skirmishes, be able to dispel these weapons and keep it clean? Our text from Ephesians 4:25-32 will offer **SEVEN RULES** for carrying on a normal, natural, disagreement without ignoring Scripture.

“Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. (26) Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: (27) Neither give place to the devil. (28) Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. (29) Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. (30) And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (31) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: (32) And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. “

Rule ONE, Keep it Honest: In verse 25 we read, “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.” Believers should recognize that lying is part of the old sin nature dominated by the “father of lies” Satan himself. Christians should not be engaged in lying of any form:

From telling something that isn't true, or shading the truth by making something look either better or worse, exaggerating, cheating on whatever, failing to keep promises, betraying confidences, giving excuses or sitting in silence when the truth should be spoken.

There is no place for lying in the Christian life, because God's economy is based on truth.

This particular verb calls for laying aside an action at a point of time. Thus we can read this verse, “Therefore, having laid aside lying, talk truthfully.” I'm calling this a commitment because of the thought here of having already done something. This isn't something that you do day after day after day. Rather, as a husband to a wife and a wife to a husband you commit yourself by saying, “Honey, no matter what, I want you to know that from this point on, and forever in our relationship, it is my deep desire to be honest with you and to respect you as a person.” It is not something that is repeated in a half-hearted way time and time again throughout a marriage.

Seriously have you ever committed yourself, verbally and honestly in your soul, to being authentic and honest with your partner, viewing your partner with respect? I get the idea of showing respect from the last part of verse 25 “...speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.”

It is a known fact that I only perform weddings for couples who are born again. That's because I believe when you marry another born-again person, you are not just marrying a man or woman; you are marrying another member of the family of God. That adds an essential dimension to your marriage. Just as you would hold in high respect someone sitting in your pew, you would also do the same for your marriage partner. That's why I'm suggesting that there be a commitment of this kind where you say, “Let's not try to kid each other. Let's not play games. I want to be honest with you, and I want you to be honest with me. I can take it and I will give it back with tact.” Then when fights occur no one is set up for a surprise punch.

Rule TWO, Keep it Under Control: In verse 26 we read, “Be ye angry, and sin not...” In other words make sure your weapons are not deadly. I believe God has given us in this verse a green light to anger, yet at the same time the warning not to let that anger lead to sin. The word for anger in this text refers to anger that is caused because principles have been violated.

As Christians, we should have a basic, built-in programmed anger over sin and evil. We ought to be angry about the sin in the world, and we ought to be angry about the sin in the church, but it must not degenerate into an anger that becomes sin.

In Proverbs 18:14 we read what happens when we employ deadly words. **“The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?”** Let me put it this way, **“The spirit of a man can endure his sickness, but a broken or crushed spirit who can bear?”** Then in verse 19 we read, **“A brother (or sister) offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.”**

Have you ever been wounded or crushed by your mate? I am sure that we all have at times. Angry words said in the spur of the moment are deadly weapons.

When we attack the person rather than the problem, we move into deadly areas.

When we make things personal or assault motives rather than dealing with the bothersome situation, we're treading on thin ice.

When we reject rather than reprove, it's harmful.

In a moment of anger, you may actually say **“Why would anyone ever think of marrying you, Oh, how deceived I was.”** or **“I can't stand the way you look. Let's face it, you're ugly, just plain ugly.”** Your mate may later say, **“I forgive you, that's all right. I understand.”** But deep inside, it's doubtful that will ever be fully forgotten. It's crushing. It breaks that inner spirit that is so much a part of a marriage. Make sure your weapons don't lead to sin. Lay down your deadly arms.

Before I go on to the next rule, let me urge you to remove **TWO** words from your vocabulary when you are arguing. They are the words **ALWAYS** and **NEVER**. They have no place because those sweeping universal rebukes are not true. No one always or never does something. There is bound to be an exception somewhere.

Rule THREE, Keep it Timed Right: After you have committed yourself to honesty and mutual respect, and thrown away the deadly weapons so you are under control, now agree together when the time is right. In verse 26-27 we read, **“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: (27) Neither give place to the devil.”** Here Paul is suggesting there is the proper time to disagree and there is the proper time not to disagree. Perhaps the most important word in this rule is **“together.”**

This is not when the husband comes home from work battle-fatigued.

This is not when the wife is still faced with the night-time big three of **DINNER, DISHES, and FATIGUE.**

This is not when the evening has turned to night where council and decisions during these late hours should not take place. Here is a rule never, never talk about **MONEY** or **HEAVY** problems after 9:00 at night, because somehow all problems look darker and loom larger at night.

Wise are the husbands and wives who know the timing and are honest enough to say, **“Honey, this isn't the best time let's deal with this a little later”** or **“This isn't the right place to discuss this. Let's deal with it a little later.”** And when you say that, keep your appointment. Set the time and don't put it off. Remember the key is, planning your time to handle matters **“together”**.

Rule FOUR, Keep it Positive: In verse 28 we read, **“Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”** This rule speaks of being ready with a positive solution right after taking a swing.

Now, although Paul is dealing with the problem of stealing, let's apply the principle to marriage. You will notice in verse 28 he makes a statement then takes a strong swing at it: **“Let him that stole steal no more...”** There is no doubt where he stands on the issue. **“I don't want that to go on any longer,”** he says. **“It's wrong before God. There's no way you can justify**

it. **Don't steal.**" But, he comes right back with a positive, supportive solution: ... **"but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."** After taking a swing at the problem of stealing, he suggests a healthy, workable alternative: **"I'm not going to leave you dangling, telling thieves not to steal. That alone doesn't do any good. I'm going to tell you how you can provide things that are needed."**

For many years I had this statement taped to one of my file cabinets, **"I won't listen to any criticism in this church if a person doesn't offer, along with the criticism, a suggestion on how we might correct the problem."** Not a bad idea!

When you come to your husband or wife with justified criticism, be quick with a suggested solution. Criticism hurts. A positive, supportive comment will help take some of the sting out of the wound.

Coming back with a positive solution, helps support the person who is already demoralized in his spirit. Paul is not only telling the thief that it is wrong to steal, but he also tells him what to do about it. He says, **"Go to work so that you honestly earn the means to give away what is needed, and then you'll not need to steal."** Remember: Condemnation without hope crushes.

Rule FIVE, Keep it Tactful: This probably will be the most difficult rule to implement because when we have a point to make we feel very strongly about, we tend to get louder. The louder our voices, the less our mate will hear; the uglier the words, the less we will communicate. So rule number five says, **"Watch your words and guard your tone. In brief, use tact."**

Paul says in verse 29, **"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth..."** The word **"corrupt"** means **"rotten, putrid."** It certainly would include profanity, swearing, and bitter words. But look at how gracious Paul is. He doesn't just attack. He says, in effect, here's the other side, **"but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."**

This calls for tactfulness which involves an implicit trust or faith in the other person and communicates the message, **"I trust you and I trust as I share these words I won't hurt you unnecessarily."** Unless it's a very unusual situation or your wife or husband is a very unusual person that will absolutely disarm them if it's said in sincerity.

Here is a very profound way to say this, **"Look, honey. I don't personally agree with you right now. I know you don't agree with me either, but whatever we say from this point on let's understand we don't want to hurt the other, we want to come to the right conclusion."** And then we get into it. Tact does wonders when it comes to removing a defensive spirit.

Now notice verse 30 says, **"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God,"** You understand that when you do sin, whether it's at home in your heart or in public you have grieved the Spirit. He says, **"Let's not do that."** So here are two things you ought to keep in mind concerning this point.

1. **Pray about it. We ought to pray over our problems and differences. When you reach that impasse agree to pray and ask God to help you discover the right course of action and the grace to accept it if the decision is not the direction to be taken. This does two things:**

**It realistically incurs the blessings of God on your problem or decision.
It helps you to "back off" once you have stated and settled the issue.**

2. **Don't NAG! Yes I said it, don't nag. That means discuss it once, or maybe a second time, but the third time is nagging. By nature we are very impatient, it's so difficult to wait for**

desired change. So discuss it, pray over it, and wait for God to give you peace with the problem.

Rule SIX, Keep it Private: In verse 31 we read, “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice...” The sixth rule is “Don’t swing at your mate in public.” When you swing in public, your malice is showing. There are at least two ways that you can do this in a marriage.

You can do it with open, bold embarrassment, or
You can do it with subtle, cutting sarcasm. Either way hurts deeply.

You never take your dirty laundry to church to wash it out do you? Nor do you bring it along to social gatherings, do you? No! You put it where it belongs. You deal with it in private. That's where your dirty laundry from a troubled relationship ought to stay.

Except in cases of personal counsel with a trusted confidant, don't share the sordid details of your marriage in public. That only succeeds in amassing a group of people who pity you or your spouse and your terrible plight.

Down in your soul you know that if your husband or your wife were ever to hear the problems publicly proclaimed, it would only embarrass them and drive their resentment deeper.

So don't swing at your mate in public. Put away slander and clamor and all malice.

Rule SEVEN, Keep It Cleaned Up: In verse 32 we read, “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.” Now the seventh rule states, When it's all over, help clean up the mess. In verse 32 Paul gives three suggestions for mopping it up:

At the heart of the word "kindness" is "grace" - be gracious enough to wipe it off the mental slate.

At the heart of "tenderness" is "compassion" - be compassionate enough to weep with the one who's hurt from the fight.

At the heart of forgiveness is the very person of Jesus Christ who forgave you. The greatest exhibition of forgiveness took place at Calvary. Now begin to fully forgive like He did.

This clean-up process is all important. Keep it in mind. Let's take a quick review of the seven rules.

1. Be committed to honesty and mutual respect.
2. Make sure the weapons are not deadly.
3. Agree that the time is right.
4. Be ready with a positive solution, soon after the swing.
5. Watch your words and guard your tone.
6. Don't swing at your mate in public.
7. When it's over, help clean up the mess. This involves kindness, tenderness, and forgiveness.

There are the rules. Write them down. Memorize them. Talk about them. But most of all keep them.

One day a elderly man stopped to see a pastor and asked if he would perform a wedding for him. He went on to explain:

Both of us have been married before - to each other! Over thirty years ago, we got into an argument, I got mad, and we separated. Then we did a stupid thing and got a divorce. I guess we were both too proud to apologize. Well, all these years we've lived alone, and now we see how foolish we've been. Our bitterness has robbed us of the joys of life, and now we want to remarry and see if the Lord won't give us a few years of happiness before we die.

You know bitterness and anger, usually over trivial things, cause havoc in homes, churches, and friendships.

Fight all you want to, as long as you keep the rules. They will help you go on to better things. As soon as you are beaten, surrender! Only then are you able to go on. However, if you must fight, fight fair and clean. The least you can do is make it a good fight! But how do you stop fights? Simple:

**When you are beaten, surrender.
When you are whipped, graciously quit.**

Remarkable as it seems, some adults can be very poor losers. If that is you, try this; all it takes is three simple sentences:

**“I am wrong you are right.”
“I am sorry, please forgive me.”
“I love you!”**

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon **"How to Have a Good Argument and Keep it Clean"** then right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, **"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..."**
Romans 10:13, **"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: **"I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation."**

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior let me know? Please send an e-mail to, pdmikBBM@aol.com and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

The **"Weekly SERMON"** was sent as a ministry of Bible Baptist Ministry, 14 United Zion Circle, Lititz, 17543. **Privacy policy: your e-mail address will not be sold, or shared with any third party.**

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING PERMISSION TO COPY: The **"Weekly SERMON"** is reproduced in several formats, therefore, in its original form, without any changes, the **"Weekly SERMON"** may be copied and re-transmitted by electronic mail, and copies may be printed for individual or ministry purposes, provided that such copying, re-transmission, printing, or other use is not for profit or other commercial purpose. Any copying, re-transmission, distribution, printing, or other use of the **"Weekly SERMON"** must set forth in full the heading that is given before each **"Weekly SERMON."** Any other request for use, please contact Bible Baptist Ministries at pastormiklas@aol.com or by phone at **717-625-2992.**