



GOD IN COMMUNICATION

how we relate to God affects how we relate to others, and how we relate to others effects how we relate to God.



God is a person



God made man in His image



A peaceful friendship existed between God and man.



Unlimited communication between God and man

<p>I need... I need a relationship with a person from whom I cannot hide.</p> <p>I need a relationship with a person at whom I can hurl my problems onto but who gives me no cause to and won't be alienated if I do.</p> <p>I need a relationship with a person who will always tell the truth. I need God.</p>	<p>If you are not truthful with yourself, you will take with you your issues and perpetuate them in every relationship you enter.</p> <p>It will be difficult to be authentic and real with people. It will impact your ability to lead. It will impact how you relate to God.</p>
	<p>We say, "I couldn't care less" but we do...</p> <p>We say, "Leave me alone" because we want to hide...</p> <p>We say "I don't want to talk about it" but we need to.</p>

UNTIL



Adam & Eve sinned



Sin alienates us from God

How does this story impact our relationships with others?

Can we communicate as Adam and Eve did before the fall?

True or False—Before the fall, Adam and Eve did not argue.



It is only through reconciliation that our communication with God can be restored.

Communication is a huge part of our lives. Can you imagine what life would be like if you couldn't communicate? Yikes! Communication is also an essential part of leadership. **You cannot be a leader if you cannot communicate.**

As you can see on the "God in Communication" diagram, communication is pretty messed up because of sin. Let's talk about this...

The essence of sin is pride

Pride was Satan's problem. He sought to lift himself up to be like God. Pride is self-centeredness.

.:HIDING

How Pride Hides

I want to be perfect
I know I am not
So...I hide my imperfections
When will I stop hiding? When I am perfect.

I need to realize that it is **wrong** to think that I have achieved or can achieve perfection in any area in this life, but that it is **right** to want to become perfect in every area in this life, through God's power and for God's glory.

.:BLAMING

How Pride Blames

I want others to be perfect
I know they are not
So...I hurl at their imperfections
When will I stop hurling? When they are perfect.

I need to deal with my imperfections and the imperfections of others.

We get so used to keeping to ourselves those thoughts and feelings that would be considered negative that we tend to hide a lot of other things - **even those thoughts and feelings that would be considered positive.**

THE ANSWER

*The answer is **not** to think less and talk more. The answer is to learn to communicate **openly, honestly, and appropriately** the essence of what I am thinking and feeling – communicating it to God, myself, and others.*

***The best way to learn how to communicate with others...
is to communicate with others!***

Personality Profiles

Silent Sam

Seldom complains

Seldom compliments

Nice person, neutral personality

When asked how he was doing, he might say "fine" – Never tells anyone about his struggles and problems

All we see is surface Sam, not the real Sam.

Sam's communication pattern keeps people **guessing**. God wants us to communicate in such a way that we keep ourselves and our relationships with others **growing**.

Sensitive Steve

Hears bad news... doesn't say anything about it to anyone and never asks for help or advice

He mulls it over for the whole day.

The issue evaporates.

Others miss out on **knowing you** because they only see one side of you – the one with no problems.

Gloomy Gloria

Single adult that wants to marry.

Looks in mirror and concludes she is unattractive, much uglier than anyone else

Sitting alone, she thinks "I will never be happy."

Many issues we choose to hide refuse to **lie dormant**; they roar and roam around and claw at our soul

Irate Ira

Gets mad

He does "militant meditation"

Loses his cool and comes unglued, starting fights and arguments

Many issues we choose to hide can cause us to **EXPLODE**.

Mac Muller

He thinks a lot, with and to himself

He doesn't share much with others, but keeps everything hidden

Shy

Quiet

Reserved

He replays incidents in his mind

The person who **internalizes** so much tends to wrap a thicker shell around himself and communicates less of real significance to others.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Mitch and Susie, two student leaders in your youth group, have built a wall between them because of personality conflicts and differences of opinion. Only Mitch is willing to talk to their youth minister about the problems. Will this help?
2. In your small group, match the following Bible verses with the "Personality Profile" people listed above and discuss why each verse fits the profile.

- a. Proverbs 19:20-21 – "Get all the **advice and instruction** you can, and be wise the rest of your life. You can make many plans, but the LORD's purpose will prevail."

This verse best applies to _____

- b. 1 Corinthians 4:5 – "God will bring to light what is **hidden** in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts."

This verse best applies to _____

- c. James 5:16 – "Therefore **confess your sins to each other** and pray for each other so that you may be healed."

This verse best applies to _____

- d. Proverbs 26:20-21 – "Fire goes out for lack of fuel, and quarrels disappear when gossip stops. **A quarrelsome person starts fights** as easily as hot embers light charcoal or fire lights wood."

This verse best applies to _____

- e. Proverbs 14:1 – "A wise woman builds her house; a foolish woman **tears hers down** with her own hands."

2nd Corinthians 2:12 – "When they **measure** themselves by themselves and **compare** themselves with themselves, they are not wise."

These verses best applies to _____

3. Look at the "God in Communication" diagram. As a small group, read through and discuss the questions found in the 3 black boxes on the bottom left corner of the page.