

Modern Family

“Communication for the Modern Family: Passages from Proverbs (NLT)

June 1-2, 2013: Cam Huxford, Senior Pastor

Words are the tools we use to build relationships, maintain relationships, and repair relationships.

Nothing has as great a potential for both good and bad as our tongue.

I. Let Your Words Be Few!

In family, if everyone is led to *think* their perspective is valuable then everyone *feels* loved and valued!

If you’re a verbal dominator everyone thinks and feels that you don’t value anyone’s position but your own.

- Quick talkers: think before you talk. Ask a trusted friend from time to time, “Am I talking too much?”
- Slow talkers: summon your courage. Your voice needs to be heard.

II. Let Your Words Be True.

Solomon’s has nothing good to say about liars.

All the research shows that lying starts early. There must be consequences, severe consequences, for kids who start exaggerating and telling lies.

Solomon would also say to protect yourself from liars.

III. Let Your Words Be Gentle.

Think of your tongue as an verbal thermostat that can control the environment of your home.

We need to go back to someone we’ve wronged with words and ask for forgiveness.

There are three words that reduce the tension and re-direct tough conversations in positive directions:
Help me understand.

IV. Let Your Words Be Life-Giving.

The most God-like trait that we have inherited from our Creator, because we’re created in His image, is this ability to speak situations into existence. *Ephesians 4:29* (NIV)

Words can change people. Words can fill a heart with gladness. Words can give strength to the weak and courage to the cowardly.

Life Giving Phrases for Modern Families:

I believe in you.
I’m proud of you.

I trust you.
I respect you.

I need you.
I love you.

Words are a primary vehicle God has given you to communicate your love to your family. Words matter!

Five for the Drive

A family conversation starter for the ride home

1. Who was the last person to say something encouraging to you?
2. How is your tongue a verbal thermostat that controls the environment in your home?
Workplace?
3. What grade would you give yourself on the statement “*Let no unwholesome talk come out of your mouth*” (Ephesians 4:29)?
4. What would be your first step to change an old pattern of communicating with family or friends?
5. Pick one of the life-giving phrases and share that with someone right now: I believe in you, I trust you, I’m proud of you, I respect you, I love you.