

Love: The Qualitative Difference (2)

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Mission Statement Reminder: It is the mission of the Central Church of Christ to lead people to have an authentic and growing relationship with God the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I propose an addition to this statement to include “with others.” It would say: It is the mission of the Central Church of Christ to lead people to have an authentic and growing relationship with others and with God the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ. What do you think?

Last week I used the metaphor that we need to sharpen our love as a group, not create it. I want to turn on the grindstone for a few minutes and begin that sharpening process. Now, sharpening can produce sparks-put your protective eye-gear on. I want to work on a particular area of love-that is what say and how we say it to one another. As Bob Goff says “Love Does.” Actually John said it first: “Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 3:18)

Actions: Visible and Tangible
In Truth: Genuine and Authentic

John told us not to love with words and tongue, and he meant “only”-communication within the kingdom is HUGE. There is so much written to tell us what to speak and how to speak it.

Luke 6:45: “The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.”

When you fall in love your speech changes: Brenda, Rachel....

What do kingdom people talk about? The ruts of communication.

How are you?

What’s new?

How’s the weather where you are?

How’s your health?

Learning the language of the Spirit:

We have relegated this language and subject matter to a time and place, i.e. church during a formal class or setting

1 Cor.2:6-7, 10b-13 READ

Are we comfortable in talking about spiritual things and using spiritual words?

1 Peter 4:11, "If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God." Notice he does not say we must only quote the word of God when we speak, but we should be so careful in what we say to one another that it is comparable to speaking the word of God. We want to say it truthfully and correctly-and not be misunderstood. We should not be loose in quoting Scripture and we should not be loose in our speech with one another.

Why? Because we love one another? And we are members of one body.

Eph.4:25, "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body."

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

Eph.5:4, "Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving."

Social media has made us all much more responsible for our communication because:

It is instantaneous and spontaneous (We don't have to think about it for very long)

It is repeatable (Repost other posts-share)

It is undocumented (Kind of like an immigrant-we don't have evidence to back up our statements)

It is graphic (pictures and video)-it is much more powerful and emotive

BUT, I want to stress our increasing our spiritual conversations within the church because God designed Christian communication to accomplish some very specific work:

- Encouragement-Heb.3:13, "But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - Teaching
 - Rebuking
 - Correcting
 - Training
- We are in the disciple-making business

What is stored in your heart?

Anger, hurt, disappointment, loneliness, bitterness, hate, prejudice, selfishness, pride, partisanship, callousness, lust, apathy, despondency, hopelessness, things of this world. If so, that is what you are going to talk about.

Changing the conversation to:

- What God is teaching you
- What God needs to teach you to become a more faithful disciple
- What others need spiritually
- What sin you are overcoming
- What you long for spiritually
- What your next faith challenge is
- Who you are discipling right now If no one, that you are looking for someone
- What you are studying right now
- What you are praying about right now
- What you are joyful about
- What is happening in your marriage, family, work, relationships

How do we prime the pump on a new way of talking to one another? We want conversations to be natural and organic, not forced or scripted.

- Decide ahead of time what kind of things you will talk about with your brothers and sisters-forethought
- Small groups that are more than informational-but relational and transformational
- Use social media to build one another up

Text to come to you for your vote on the mission statement change. Yes or No. To add one another to the statement.