

TWO DOORS

Part VII

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John 10:1-7 (NKJV) ¹"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by **the door**, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters **by the door** is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls **his own sheep** by name and leads them out. ⁴ And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and **the sheep follow him**, for they know **his voice**. ⁵ Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, **but will flee from him**, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them. ⁷ Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep.**"

This is our 7th lesson on "Two Doors."

In our last lesson we discussed communication.

Some people are great at communication, some people are horrible at communication.

Some people make their living and build relationship by their ability to communicate, and others sabotage their employment and destroy relationships by their inability to communication.

The ability to communicate is extremely important.

Lesson 7; let's talk about communication with love and total honesty.

The door of silence—the door of communication:

Communication

Communicating with love and total Honesty

Review:

Communication reflects the very nature and character of God himself. Consider this He is the source of all communication. He is the God who speaks and reveals Himself to mankind.

(Genesis 1:26 (NKJV) Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness

God is speaking not thinking.

God did not create man because He was lonely, but because He chose to do so.

God was in perfect communication with Himself, His world, and with man. Man was in perfect harmony with nature. He was in love with his wife, and they were in perfect communication with each other. Their fellowship was unbroken.

When you enter the door of Sin it Breaks Communication with whoever you sin against. Whether in the spiritual or natural, in heaven or on earth.

Adam and Eve were created in God's image and endowed with human intelligence. They had the gift of communicating instantly – with God and with each other.

With sin came lying, blaming, anger, hatred, murder, cheating, and so forth. Communication was broken! They hid from God who loved them

(Genesis 3:8 (NKJV) And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.) We've done that since.

They blamed each other for their sin. And the world has never been the same since.

By our sinful nature, we inhibit communication. We start building walls to hide within, instead of building bridges to reach out to others

In the New Testament, He sent His Son from heaven to communicate His love for us. In His Son, God offers us peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

God has built a bridge of communication to us (Jesus) and we need to learn to build bridges to others.

“Yes, there are risks involved in building bridges,” but the rewards are worth the risk! , but clamming up will leave you alienated, isolated from the very people God may intend to be blessings in your life.

Misunderstanding always comes of poor communication. We judge, condemn, and criticize those people and things that we least understand. Out of our own ignorance, we make a situation worse, when God wants us to correct it. Don't be the cause of problems. Learn to become part of the solution!

Five Key Principles

1. Stop lying. Start telling the truth. Ephesians 4:25
2. Stop hating. Start loving. Ephesians 4:26, 27
3. Stop stealing. Start giving. Ephesians 4:28
4. Stop cutting down. Start building up Ephesians 4:29,30
5. Stop overreacting. Start acting like a Christian! Ephesians 4:31,32

In **Ephesians 4**, the Apostle Paul gives five keys to effective communication:

1. **Stop lying. Start telling the truth.** “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another” (**Ephesians 4:25**)
2. **Stop hating. Start loving.** “Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil” (**Ephesians 4:26, 27**). In this passage we are warned not to stay angry, because anger destroys communication. Anger will lead either to aggressive or depressive behavior; it causes us to strike out at others or to put down ourselves. Either way, its destructive force hurts us and those with whom we are angry. When anger comes into your life, deal with it quickly and settle it. Don’t let one day pass without eliminating your anger. Otherwise, you are giving Satan a place to defeat you. No one wants to be around an angry person. It drives children away from their parents, and it drives husbands and wives away from each other. It destroys communication and thereby destroys relationships. By contrast, love forgives, restores, and communicates.
3. **Stop stealing. Start giving.** “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” (**Ephesians 4:28**). Stealers are takers, selfish by nature. The Apostle Paul reminds us that we need to stop stealing and develop the grace of giving. In marriage, some people are takers by nature. They never learn to give, and their marriage collapses. Selfish people destroy communication; unselfish people build communication by building bridges to each other with gifts of kindness.

In interpersonal relationships, ask yourself, “Am I a giver or a taker?” Givers tend to see the worth and importance of other people. Takers, on

the other hand, tend to see the world solely from their own standpoint. They provoke others to evade, repress, or deny their innermost feelings.

4. **Stop cutting down. Start building up.** “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying [building up], that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption” (**Ephesians 4:29, 30**) Some people excel at cutting down everything and everybody. This passage warns that such negative communication grieves the Spirit of God! Your mouth is to be an instrument of God’s grace, not a fountain of bitterness and cursing. Every time you cut someone down, you destroy communication. You drive people away from God, instead of drawing them closer to Him. What we communicate verbally should encourage and strengthen those who hear us.

5. **Stop overreacting. Start acting like a Christian!** “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (**Ephesians 4:31, 32**).

Here the great apostle warns us not to handle our problems like pagans. Don’t blow up! That only makes things worse! Notice the chain reaction in **verse 31**. We start with bitterness, which soon leads to wrath and anger. That, in turn, leads to clamor (two or more people yelling at each other), which takes us on to evil speaking (literally *blasphemy* or slander), and finally to malice (a deliberate attempt to do someone bodily injury). Such behavior is not of God. It is a worldly response to problems, yes – but not the Christian response. Such overreactions drive people away from us and destroy communication.

One of the most common reasons for Christians overreacting in situations that require skillful communication is a failure to realize just how complex good communication really is. Effective communication can best be thought of as a circular process, made up of at least six components. The diagram below depicts these six components of communication.

After salvation there will remain two doors throughout your life.

They are Carnal and spiritual
 Natural and supernatural
 Unrighteous and righteousness
 Sinful and Godly
 Darkness and light
 Fleshly and spirit
 Impure and purity
 Unfaithful and faithfulness
 Cursing and blessing
 Death and life

Romans 8:3-10 (NKJV) ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh (**sinful nature**), but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.