

# Communication

**The need for good communication between family members was illustrated by a story a friend told me.**

The father of a family admonished his teenage daughter saying:

*“There are two words I would like you to drop from your vocabulary: one is ‘awesome,’ the other is ‘gross.’”*

*“Okay dad,”* the daughter replied, *“what are the two words?”*

**Proof that communication is vital to healthy relationships.**

**A marriage counselling court studied its records for one year, hoping to identify the primary problem experienced by married couples.**

The most common concern was *“lack of communication.”* **In 88 percent of cases couples either did not or would not talk over their problems with each other.**

How many times in your life have you said any of the following? –

*“But that is not what I said.”*

*“That is not what I meant.”*

*“Why did you not do as I said?”*

*“We are talking about two different things.”*

Yet most of us believe we communicate clearly. We assume that if we are speaking the same language we will understand each other.

**Good communication, however, is neither commonplace nor simple. It occurs only when the receiver understands a message as it was sent.**

The apostle Paul wrote to the Galatian Church about a communication problem that families today need to be aware of and put in check.

I call it the shark syndrome.

**Galatians 5:15-16** [New King James] *“But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”*

What does a person bite with? Their mouths. So Paul is talking about sins of the tongue, gossiping and maligning.

It is **not** necessary to be around other people to bite and devour them. **Malicious talk can spread around for many miles, around your town or 2000 miles away.** The result is the same.

Biting and devouring always ends with someone being consumed, their lives ripped apart by ill-chosen words.

**True Christians should only speak in love, faith and outgoing concern.**

Paul reminds the Galatian Church, and all Christians, that *“faith works through love,”* [Galatians 5:6].

Paul also reminds us that even *“mountain-moving faith”* is of no value without *“love,”* [1 Corinthians 13:2].

**If you have been guilty of verbally biting and devouring other people like a shark, you need to confess this sin to God and change.**

**If someone has been hurt by you in this way, we must go to them and ask for forgiveness, if our prayers to our Creator God are to be accepted, [Matthew 5:23-24].**

**Paul in Galatians also speaks of what our communication to one another should be like.**

**Galatians 5:22-25** [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

**These are the relationship “fruits” if we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us in our lives.**

**Only then can we be living the life of a true Christian, [Romans 8:14].**

**Galatians 6:7-10** [New King James] *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”*

If the Holy Spirit fills our lives and guides our tongue then we will be preparing to be part of God’s created family, the Kingdom of God.