

BUILDING A BRIDGE WITH WORDS
#SermonWords
Building Bridges - Part 2
Dr. Mark Jackson, March 17, 2019

Four Ways To Improve Your Communication Skills

1. YOU MUST BUILD TRUST

Proverbs 20:6 Many people claim to be loyal, but it is hard to find a trustworthy person. (NCV)

Four Major Trust Killers

- LIES
- FLATTERY
- BROKEN PROMISES
- SILENCE

Matthew 5:37 Simply let your 'yes' be 'yes' and your 'no' be 'no'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. (NIV)

2. YOU MUST GUARD YOUR THOUGHTS

Proverbs 4:23 Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts. (TEV)

Matthew 12:34 For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. (NIV)

3. YOU MUST USE YOUR EARS

Psalm 116:1 I love the Lord, because He listens to my prayers for help. (NCV)

Luke 8:18a So be careful how you listen... (NCV)

L.I.S.T.E.N.

- LOOK at people
- INVEST in people
- STOP whatever you're doing
- THINK about what they're saying
- EMPATHIZE with them
- NOTICE body language

Proverbs 18:13 Listen before you answer. If you don't, you are being **stupid** and **insulting**. (TEV)

4. YOU MUST ENCOURAGE WITH YOUR WORDS

Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is **helpful for building others up** according to their needs... (NIV)

Proverbs 12:18 **Thoughtless words** can wound as deeply as any sword, but **wisely spoken words** can heal. (TEV)

Matthew 12:36-37 Let me tell you something: Every one of these careless words is going to come back to haunt you. There will be a **time of Reckoning**. Words are powerful; **take them seriously**.³⁷ Words can be **your salvation**. Words can also be **your damnation**. (MSG)

John 3:3 Unless you are **born again**, you can never get into the Kingdom of God. (LB)