**Finding Grace**

**Grace for the Family**

**Say What? Effective Communication**

**Proverbs 18:21a** - *Death and life are in the power of the tongue*

**James 3:3-5** - *Now if we put the bits into the horses’ mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!*

**I. We must set our hearts on Christ because all of our communication originates in our heart**

**Matthew 12:34-37** - *You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil. But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.*

A. To effectively communicate, our heart must be committed to love the Lord

**Matthew 22:37-40** - *And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.” This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.*

B. To effectively communicate, we must want to please the Lord with our words

**1 Corinthians 10:31** - *Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

C. Having just celebrated Easter, we have every motivation to want to love and please the Lord

D. Understanding that communication comes from our hearts, helps us avoid incorrect clichés

**II. We must use grace-based communication in our families**

A. Commit to speaking the truth

**Ephesians 4:25** - *Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.*

1. When one speaks the truth the message is not hidden or distorted

2. When one speaks the truth they do not use hurtful exaggeration

3. When one speaks the truth they do so recognizing that they are family

B. Commit to words of affirmation

C. Commit to words of affection

D. Commit to words of security

E. Commit to words that are soft rather than harsh

**Proverbs 15:1** - *A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

F. Commit to being quiet at appropriate moments

**Proverbs 10:19** - *When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.*

**Proverbs 18:2** - *A fool does not delight in understanding, but only in revealing his own mind.*