

WHEN TO SPEAK & WHEN TO BE QUIET

WITH CHRIS & TARA BAILEY, CHANGEMINISTRY.ORG

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BEFORE WE BEGIN

A TESTIMONY

OUR GOAL - THAT WE MAY BECOME...

- A voice of reason
- A voice of compassion
- A voice of encouragement
- A voice of leadership
- A voice of grace
- A voice of love...

LET'S PRAY

¹³ Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, my Strength, and my Redeemer.

- PSALM 19:13-14

I. THERE'S A TIME FOR SPEAKING & FOR SILENCE

I To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: 7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

- ECCLESIASTES 3:1,7

I. THERE'S A TIME FOR SPEAKING & FOR SILENCE

- We do not want to be a people who are overwhelmed or intimidated by situations and circumstances...unable to speak the truth of God.
- We must be prepared to ask God the question:
 - “Should I remain silent or should I speak?”
- Look deeply at our own personal communication patterns.
- Knowing when to speak or remain silent is a matter based on love and not empowerment. Loving one another enough to understand when we should be silent and when we should speak---and if we speak, doing so with words that promote and encourage further communication.

2. THE PRICE OF SILENCE CAN BE COSTLY

Let your speech *be* always with grace, seasoned with salt,
that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

- COLOSSIANS 4:6

2. THE PRICE OF SILENCE CAN BE COSTLY

- Our voices should not remain silent when God has directed us to speak.
- The reasons for staying silent are often excuses for being silent.
- We rationalize our silence with these phrases while we allow people around us or even those we love fall into the clutches of the enemy.
- Imagine if Christ used these excuses to NOT speak or answer a prayer.

GENESIS 3:6-7

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; **and he did eat.**

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

3. OUR DESIRE TO BE HEARD MUST BE EXCEEDED BY OUR DESIRE TO HELP & HEAL

23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

- MATTHEW 5:23-24

3. OUR DESIRE TO BE HEARD MUST BE EXCEEDED BY OUR DESIRE TO HELP & HEAL

- Follow the Shepherd as He leads & approach every situation with spiritual eyes...
- 4 Principles to Develop Spiritual Eyesight
 1. Examine our own lives and see what type of knowledge base do we have in that area. Can we share from experience?
 - The more comfortable we are with personal experiences that support a belief system, the less defensive and aggressive we will be in our speech.
 2. Don't try and convince but only encourage and educate.
 3. Ask questions and listen to the response. Evaluate the atmosphere (Scenario)
 4. Instead of attacking one another, attack the problem.

3. OUR DESIRE TO BE HEARD MUST BE EXCEEDED BY OUR DESIRE TO HELP & HEAL

- Ask yourself these questions:
 - Have I prayed about the situation and for those involved?
 - Am I the right person to speak to this situation?
 - Am I attacking the person or helping them see a problem?
 - Do I have any solutions for the situations?
 - Do I need to own some of the problem? If so, what part?
 - Am I attempting to exalt myself? Am I speaking in a condescending manner?
 - What is my motive for confronting this situation?
 - Am I willing to change, to be challenged or to support an alternative decision?
 - Am I able to find peace if the situation does not change?

I SAMUEL 17:25-26

25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, **and taketh away the reproach from Israel?** for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

4. COMMUNICATION IS BUILT FOR CONFLICTS

A soft answer turneth away wrath: but
grievous words stir up anger.

- PROVERBS 15:1

4. COMMUNICATION IS BUILT FOR CONFLICTS

- Guidelines to keep problems from escalating:
 - Establish procedures for communicating before a problem
 - Let people know how to best approach you and find out theirs
 - Don't shut down and hold feelings and ideas inside
 - Emphasize that you are sharing your perspective
 - During a meeting or conversation be available emotionally and mentally
 - Listen with undivided attention and not interruptions...take notes
 - Set up a follow-up meeting if necessary
 - Gives opportunity to share after having time to think

MATTHEW 18:15-18

15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: **if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.**

16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

18 Verily I say unto you, **Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven:** and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

5. THOSE ABOVE US AREN'T BEYOND US

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into
him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

- EPHESIANS 4:15

5. THOSE ABOVE US AREN'T BEYOND US

- Its one thing to challenge a friend or co-worker or even a peer, but when confrontation involves authority (boss, teacher, parent, pastor) we sometimes have second thoughts about speaking up or knowing when to be quiet.
- Questioning Authority: Negative
 - (Wrong attitude behind asking or speaking)
- Asking Questions: Positive
 - (Its okay to ask questions)

5. THOSE ABOVE US AREN'T BEYOND US

- QUESTIONING

- Persisting (to trap in a untruth)
- Complaining (criticize)
- Challenging (impure motives)
- Debating & Disputing (defense)
- Making Accusations (accusing)
- Taking Up An Offense (paranoia)

- ASKING QUESTIONS

- Prepare yourself-Pray
- Find an appropriate time to meet
- Get to the point
- Let the person know you recognize their authority
- If not clear, explain more
- Be careful not to get defensive
- Avoid justifying yourself
- At conclusion, pray & thank them for their time

ESTHER 4:16; 5:4-5

16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and **fast ye for me**, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will **I go in unto the king**, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

4 And Esther answered, If it seem good unto **the king**, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.

5 Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that **Esther had prepared**.

6. SILENCE SHOULD BE A CHOICE; NOT A CODE

Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is
of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil
thing to say of you.

- TITUS 2:8

6. SILENCE SHOULD BE A CHOICE; NOT A CODE

- Our individual response to God should be based on our God-given Counselor, the Holy Spirit and not listen to our own voice of selfishness and self-interest.
- Peer Pressure or Trapped by Rationalizing? Here's how to get out
 1. If you question your decision to speak or not...take a step back, and get another opinion. Don't become angry
 2. Let go of the need to be in control. Accept the fact that we cannot control everything. We need wisdom
 3. Forgive and heal when you have been hurt
 4. Do not take the blame for life's problems and avoid placing the blame on others
 5. If too difficult to pull out, talk to someone who you can trust and respect
 6. Communicate your feelings and concerns in a way that can be perceived by the other person

ACTS 5:3-5

3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart **to lie to the Holy Ghost**, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

7. SILENCE LISTENS SO THE LORD CAN SPEAK

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man
be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

- JAMES 1:19

7. SILENCE LISTENS SO THE LORD CAN SPEAK

- 3 Stumbling Blocks To Godly Silence
 - Stumbling Block #1: Feeling threatened or intimidated
 - Stumbling Block #2: Fear
 - Stumbling Block #3: Pride
- When we have the peace of God and identity in Christ, we lose interest in trying to justify ourselves.
- Effective Use of Silence
 - Make sure sense to remain silent lines up with the Bible
 - Biblically based counsel confirms your silence
 - If your decision is confirmed through prayer and 2 or more witnesses

MATTHEW 27:11-14

11 And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked Him, saying, Art Thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.

12 And when He was accused of the chief priests and elders, **He answered nothing.**

13 Then said Pilate unto Him, Hearst Thou not how many things they witness against Thee?

14 And **He answered him to never a word;** insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

8. ANGER IS A TRAP

18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

- ROMANS 12:18-21

8. ANGER IS A TRAP

- Questions for Remaining Silent and Reducing Anger
 - How do we employ silence when someone confronts us with anger?
 - Will speaking really not help the situation?
 - Are emotions so strong that no one is listening?
 - Are we speaking only out of frustration or will our insights be helpful?
 - How can we respond people are upset with us?
- Avoid the anger trap when you:
 1. FORGIVE those who have hurt you- sit back and look at the situation (Colossians 3:12-13).
 2. Don't justify your anger (Yelling at children, co-worker, peer).
 3. Express your needs (This will help to create a bridge so solution can be found).
 4. Be accountable to others with your emotions.
 5. Take of yourself-be physically, mentally, and spiritually well.

8. ANGER IS A TRAP

- Anger Do's

1. Listen

- Hear what the person is saying.
Clarify
- Ask the person to clarify what they are saying

2. Ask for Suggestions

- More than likely they have a way to solve the problem

- Anger Don'ts

1. Don't become self-protective

- Proverbs 16:32

2. Don't own problems that belong to others

- Role play/Trade places

3. Don't Argue

- A debate will only lead to more frustration (Proverbs 15:1)

EXODUS 2:11-12, 15

11 And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren.

12 And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, **he slew the Egyptian**, and hid him in the sand.

15 Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well.

9. USE THE POWER OF APPEALS

A man's heart deviseth his way: but the
LORD directeth his steps.

- PROVERBS 16:9

9. USE THE POWER OF APPEALS

- Speaking or Silence starts with...
 - Making good decisions which comes from understanding God's purpose for our lives.
- Leaders make decisions and we are all leaders.
 - Even the children in your classroom.
- Surround yourself with people with a strong relationship with God.
- Surround yourself with people who are faithful to speak the truth.
 - Even people bold enough to speak the truth to me.

9. USE THE POWER OF APPEALS

- Pure Appeals Checklist
 - Am I furthering my own agenda?
 - Will those I am appealing to say I have an attitude of support and encouragement?
 - Have I prayed about the appeal and taken counsel with others?
 - Will I graciously receive an answer contrary to my own will?
 - Have I examined the possibility that I might be wrong?

GENESIS 18:22-24

23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt Thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

24 Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: **wilt Thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?**

25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from Thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

10. BULLIES USE THEIR VOICE; BUT BELIEVERS HAVE A VOICE TO BE USED

11 And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: 12 For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

- LUKE 12:11-12

10. BULLIES USE THEIR VOICE; BUT BELIEVERS HAVE A VOICE TO BE USED

- Godly Speaking and Godly Silence are both gifts from God!
- Whether using a godly voice or using godly we must step up
- God will give us the wisdom to choose when to speak or be silent, whether to support or confront, and whether to agree or disagree.
- Never forget that we are all called to be agents of change in the kingdom of God.



ONLINE: CHANGEMINISTRY.ORG
YOUTUBE: [CHANGEMINISTRY](https://www.youtube.com/CHANGEministry)
EMAIL: CHRISANDTARA@CHANGEMINISTRY.ORG

...for more information, answers, & encouragement

...to schedule CHANGEministry to come to your school, church, or organization

...for additional resources on: "When To Speak & When To Be Quiet"