

INSIGHT

Many people believe that no book has had a more direct and powerful influence on American history than Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, "Uncle Tom's Cabin". With its vivid descriptions of suffering and oppression, this book inflamed the people of the North against slavery, and thus became a force in bringing about the American Civil War. Harriet Beecher Stowe used what is called an emotional word picture. It was this form of communication that moved people to cry out against slavery in the 1800's.

An *emotional word picture* is a communication method that uses either a story or an object to help people to understand and feel what the other person is feeling. *Emotional word pictures* stimulate both the left brain (analytical) and the right brain (emotional) of men and women. For example, an American flag is an *emotional word picture*. It represents democracy and freedom and stirs up emotions of patriotism. The cross is another *emotional word picture* in that it reminds us of the One who suffered and died for our sins, motivating us to love!

Emotional word pictures are very effective when it comes to communicating thoughts and emotions! In 2 Samuel 12:1-13, God used an emotional word picture to get king David to realize how heinous his sin with Bathsheba was!

Christ used *emotional word pictures*. He often used physical object or stories to illustrate a point. For "*Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable.*" (Mat 13:34). A parable is a short, simple story designed to communicate a spiritual truth, religious principle, or a moral lesson; a figure of speech in which truth is illustrated by a comparison or example drawn from everyday experiences.

Jesus' parables centered around the kingdom of God. Through emotional word pictures, Jesus taught the nature of the kingdom (Mark 4:26-29), the grace of the kingdom (Luke 18:9-17), and the conditions of the kingdom such as commitment (Luke 14:28-30), forgiveness (Matt. 18:23-35), and compassion (Luke 10:25-37). These *word pictures* sought to stimulate a decision and change a person's life...as they did us!

The Royal Law: Loving Relationships Effective Communication

Key Text:

Proverbs 12:18

"Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."

Theme:

Wise communication will bring about good results. Through the use of *emotional word pictures*, you can get others to understand and feel what you are feeling. This is done through the use of meaningful illustrations and stories. *Emotional word pictures* tend to get our attention, bring the thought communicated to light, motivate us to respond and lock the point into memory! It is an effective communication tool!

Application:

Here are some practical suggestions:

1. **Decide what your purpose is.** What do you want to convey to this person? Do you want to give praise? Clarify something? Correct the person?
2. **Find out the persons interest.** In order to illustrate your point effectively, you should use an illustration that is meaningful to that person.
3. **Choose your object.** Use a story, an object, a past event or nature to communicate your point!
4. **Practice.** Practice what you're going to say and how you're going to say it! Pray for effectiveness!
5. **Meet with them at a convenient time.** Try to avoid the use of a telephone. Communicate in person!
6. **Be persistent.** If one emotional word picture doesn't work, try another. Be persistent in activating the emotions!

May the Lord richly bless you!

SERMON OUTLINE

Effective Communication

“If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers” James 2:8-9

Practical Ways To A Loving Relationship

I. Last Week: Restoring A Weakened Relationship

1. **Detecting erosion:** Ingredients in a relationship:
 - a. *Spirit* (the inner person; who we are)
 - b. *Mind* (the emotions, the will)
 - c. *Body* (hormones, skin, etc.)
2. **Restoring relationships:**
 - a. Be gentle in your approach
 - b. Seek forgiveness, don't be judgmental.
 - c. Reason with them and reach out (physically too)
3. **Pursue peace:** Pursue Peace ! (*Rom. 14:19*)
 - a. The kingdom is about peace (*Rom. 14:17*)
 - b. We have the ministry of reconciliation! (*2 Cor. 5:18*)

II. Building intimacy by sharing emotions...

A. How To Effectively Communicate...

1. Communication is the transference of information
2. It is also the transference of emotion
3. Must know what to say and *how* to say it. (*John 12:49*)
 - a. Validate the person's emotions.
 - b. Validate their actions. Give them the benefit of the doubt.
4. Jesus used **parables** to communicate effectively.
5. We can learn from Him and use Word Pictures.

B. Emotional Word Pictures

1. Definition
2. Function/usage
3. How to use one/create one.

Conclusion: How we communicate shows how much we

love one another. Effective communication leads to *loving relationships*.

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Warm-up:

Do you have trouble communicating your emotions to your mate (or other people)? Why?

See To It

Proverbs 12:18

- 1- Give an example in your life how you have pierced someone with reckless words.
- 2- Give an example of how you have been pierced with reckless words.
- 3- How could you or the person speaking to you have approached the situation with a healing tongue? Try to come up with an emotional word picture that would have worked for you.

Seeing It Closer

John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:14

- 1- What is *the* major gateway to intimacy in relationships?
- 2- What causes major breakdowns in communication?
- 3- What can you do as a loving person to *restore* the lines of communication?
- 4- Does it take effort to communicate with an Emotional Word Picture? Why is it so imperative to persevere in this kind of communication? What happens if we give up after trying to communicate without success?
- 5- After reading *1 John 3:14*, what do you think John is referring to when he says we have *passed from death to life*?

Getting To It:

Relationships are special as they are different with each individual you know. Great care must be taken to ensure their growth. If you truly love someone you will seek to build a relationship with them based on communication. Like water is to a plant, communication is to a relationship. You know you have passed from death to life when you discover the joy of spiritual intimacy with your soul mate. If you have let God's Spirit teach you about humility and love, then make His joy complete in you by building loving

relationships with each other. On your own read: *Phil.*
2:1-3; 1 Sam 18:1-2 Sam 1:26 (David and Jonathan)