

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOW SHIP

Communication

Growing together by listening and responding in genuine Holy Spirit filled love and care for one another

I. Anatomy of communication

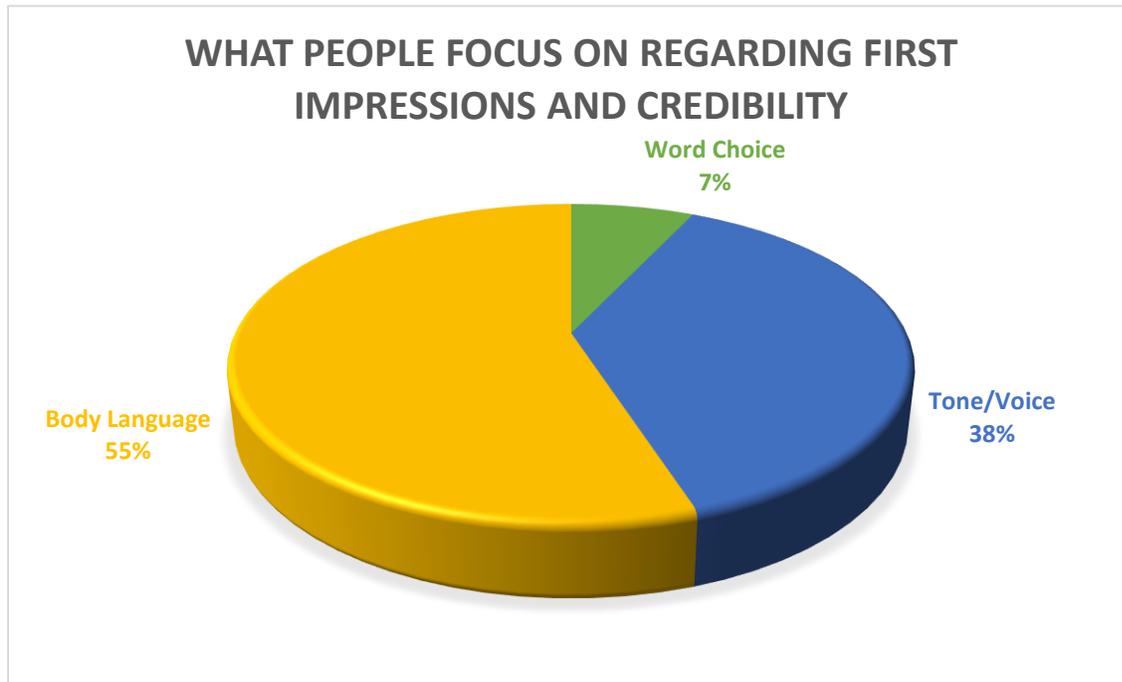
A. Information is being communicated when people are together

1. Small talk gives information
2. Even just being together informs (Job 2:10-13)

B. Words

1. Word choice is important
2. Be thorough, clear and brief (Prov 10:18-21)
3. Pitch, pace, pause, punch

C. Non-Verbal



1. Non-verbal communication is: "An elaborate code that is written nowhere, known by none, and understood by all." - Edward Sapir
2. When the verbal contradicts the non-verbal we believe the non-verbal.

3. Facial expression can reveal how we evaluate what is said
4. Body language helps to enforce the message
5. Be careful not to misunderstand people based on perception

II. What shall we talk about?

- A. Do you talk to God?
 1. He knows our thoughts and who we are (PS 139:1-6)
 2. He wants us to seek Him and speak with Him (Chron 16:7-12)
- B. What is our purpose when we talk to others?
 1. To receive counsel from them?
 - a) *What about when their counsel isn't what we want to hear?*
 - b) *Are we coming with pure motives?*
 2. To give counsel
 - a) *Have we considered how they will best receive it?*
 - b) *Are we coming with pure motives?*
 3. To resolve conflict
 - a) *How deeply are we invested in understanding*
 - b) *How deeply are we invested in being understood*
 - c) *It's easier to avoid, but it typically doesn't go away unless someone leaves*
 - d) *Are we coming with pure motives?*
 4. To build relationships
 - a) *The stronger the relationship the easier the counsel*
 - b) *The stronger the relationship the more effective we can be*
 - c) *The stronger the relationship the purer our motives (highest good)*

III. Some Pitfalls Concerning Conflict

- A. Don't polish your killer argument, or talk over people
 1. Are you genuinely interested in what they have to say? Shouldn't you be?
 2. Pushing an argument will likely only convince them that you don't care about them
 3. It isn't about winning unless it is winning a friend
- B. Don't assume anything
 1. You don't truly know how they'll respond
 2. You don't necessarily know what is at the root of it
 3. Be really careful about reading into what's not being said
- C. Ask clarifying questions and restate what they've said
 1. What do you mean when you say "punched him in the throat"?
 2. What I hear you saying is "you don't like people repeating back to you what you just said"
- D. Know your audience (People have different ways of comprehending)
 1. Sometimes it's better to be direct so they don't feel like you are being condescending.
 2. Sometimes it's better to be considerate so they don't feel attacked
 3. Sometimes it's better one on one and sometimes better with a group

E. Think the best of people (potential)

1. That doesn't mean you let yourself be taken advantage of
2. You should want to encourage them to be the best
3. Invest in them
4. Isn't that what Jesus did for you?