

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying [building], that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

*Ephesians 4:29*

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt . . .

*Colossians 4:6*

- **Small talk** –  
*casual*  
*conversation*  
*with a purpose*

## Small talk . . .

1. . . is biblical (*Eph.4:29, Col. 4:6*).
2. . . can be godly.
3. . . .may be grace-giving (*Eph. 4:29*)

Small talk is an icebreaker...



...that leads to more valuable conversation.

Good small talkers make others feel *included, valued, comfortable and loved.*

- Does not come naturally
- No biological mechanism takes over
- Attend seminars, hire coaches, read books, practice - practice – practice

Small talk is like the first domino . . .



. . . that starts a chain reaction.



# Kid stuff that *does not* apply to adults

1. “Good things come to those who wait.”

Good things come to those who *ask*.

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” Matthew 7:7

2. “Silence is golden.”

Silence may be impolite, unloving, even arrogant.

3. “Wait to be properly introduced.”

“Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Gal. 6:7)

“Don’t let the fear of striking out get in your way” (Babe Ruth)

4. “Don’t talk to strangers.”

Do talk to strangers. They may visit your church, become your friends, and be ready to hear the gospel.

“A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity”  
(Proverbs 17:17)

1. Enter a crowded room.  
(Bite the clothesline.)

2. SMILE (practice)

“A merry heart does good like  
a medicine” (Proverbs 17:22)



“...a merry heart has  
a continual feast”  
(Proverbs 15:15)





Your smile can be  
your secret weapon.

“The light of the eyes  
rejoices the heart . . .”  
(Proverbs 15:13)





3. Find an approachable person.

4. Make eye contact.

5. Offer your name and ask his.

6. Use icebreakers.

# *Icebreakers*

“Where are you folks from?”

“What do you do for a living?”

“Tell me about your family.”



“How did you hear about our church?”

“That’s an interesting name – *origin?*”

“Other things you enjoy?”

## *Names are important!*

1. God knows your name, the hairs on your head.

“But the very hairs of your head are all numbered”  
(Matthew 10:30)

2. Learning a name *accurately* honors the person.

### 3. Everyone likes to hear his own name.

- “Spell it?”
- Write it down
- No nickname unless he shares
- “Origin?”
- “I’m sorry, I forgot your name”

# The Godly Art of Listening

1. God always listens to us - Psalm 121:4

2. Good listeners gather information.

3. First rule of conversation: listen.

*I never learn a thing while I am talking.*

*Not many folks really listen.*

*“To be interesting, be interested” - Dale Carnegie*

Be observant! “Most people look; few people see.”



What is a Whatzit?

# Whatzits work!!







# The Value of Listening

## 1. Important in the house of God

“Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools” (Ecclesiastes 5:1)

## 2. Act of selfless love

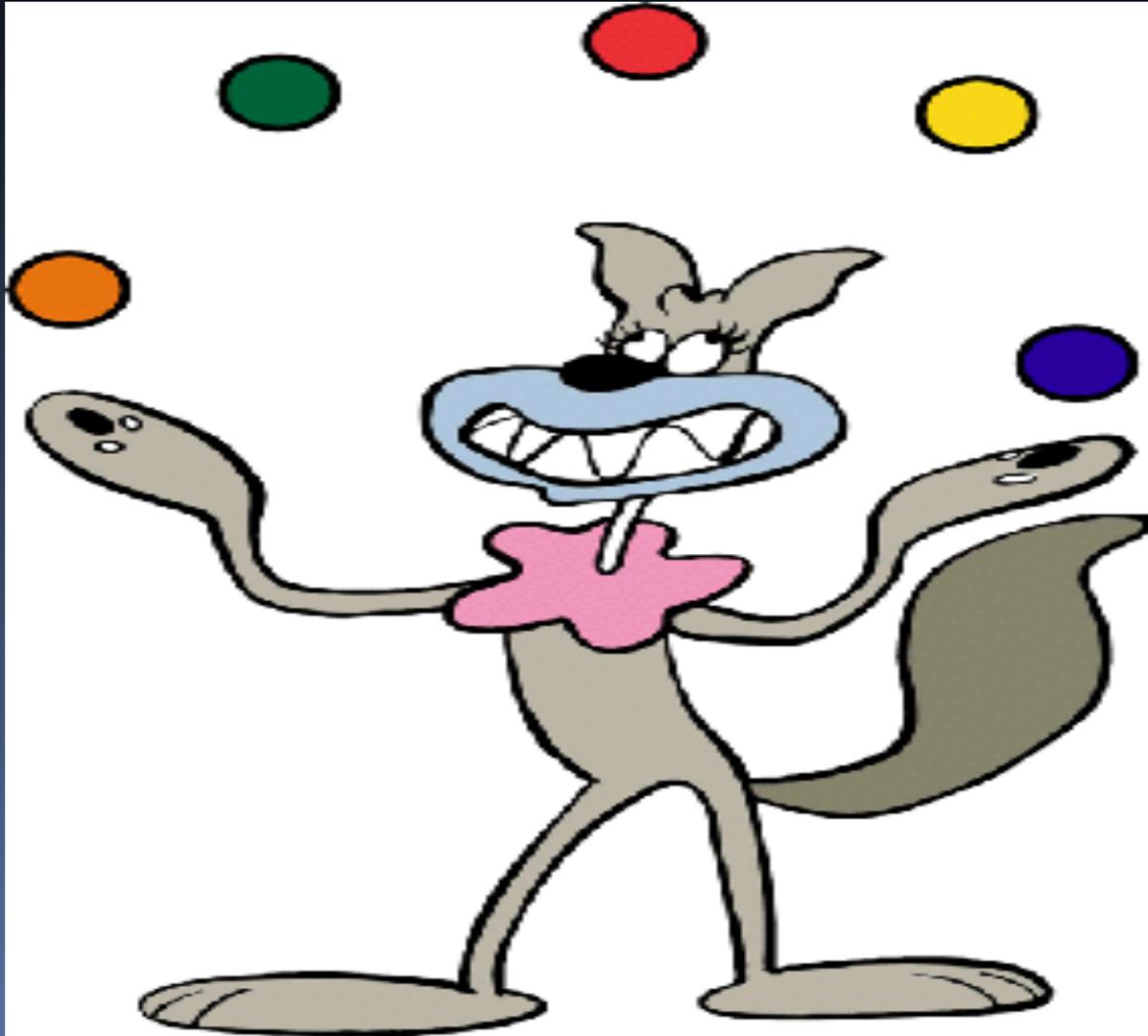
“seeks not her own” (1 Corinthians 13:5)

## 3. Reveals clues for helping

“is kind” (1 Corinthians 13:4)

## 4. Exercise in Spirit-filled life - Ephesians 5:18

Don't juggle . . .



... play  
catch!



# Need to Make a Graceful Exit?

The dreaded epidemic disease of TMD!

**TOO MANY DETAILS**

Too Much Data

“I promised myself that I would welcome three new visitors this morning.”

“It’s been great talking to you, Joe, but I’m sure you want to meet some more folks today.”

“Great story, Bill, but I have some responsibilities to take care of right now.”

“I know what you mean, Gertrude . . .  
but let me ask you a question?”

# Take Action

1. Ask for daily *word* grace

*“words . . . acceptable in thy sight”*

(Psalm 19:14)

2. Be slow to speak

*“swift to hear, slow to speak”* (James 1:19)

3. Spread the gospel via casual conversation

*“gospel to every creature”* (Mark 16:15)

Are you folks church-goers?

Of course, the most important thing is to know where you are going when you die?

Have you ever thought about where you are going when you die?

We learned at church how to help folks know where they are going when they die? Could I share that with you sometime? How about right now?

DQ - Exchange

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