

V. **SECRET #5: SHARE ONLY WHAT'S WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL, DON'T GOSSIP.**

“Corrupt” communication must never characterize Christians (v 29). This word refers to what becomes “rotten, filthy, or worthless” and spoils healthy relationships. We must not take those closest to us for granted by talking down, badly of them, or behind their backs. Let us encourage or “minister grace” to each other in order to survive tough times and thrive as a godly family.

VI. **SECRET #6: SAY IT IN A WAY THAT BUILDS UP AND BLESSES OTHERS.**

The Christian family must be a vital part of a local church to receive from and build other families. As a faith community we can reach out to our society. As the “salt of the earth,” people will sense our influence by our seasoned speech. This is how we not only grow up or mature “in Christ,” but compassionately share the truth about our soon-coming Bridegroom!

What do you need to do to better serve God in your family?

“And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
Joshua 24:15

FAMILY MATTERS
Secrets For Great Communication
Dr. Chris Gnanakan

INTRODUCTION

- A. Will your family survive in today’s culture? Many people say that the traditional idea of the family is finished. The family institution today may be fragmented, but it is definitely not finished. Your family can survive and thrive!

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- B. In this series you will discover the Biblical secrets for a successful family. This eight part series features the following messages:

Feb 8	Secrets To A God-Honoring Family
Feb 15	Secrets To Being Single And Happy
Feb 22	Secrets To A Satisfying Marriage
TODAY	Secrets For Great Communication
Mar 8	Secrets For Debt Free Living
Mar 15	Secrets For Successful Parenting
Mar 22	Secrets For Fruitful Grandparenting
Mar 29	Secrets For A Lasting Family

This series is for everyone!

- C. **TEXT:** Ephesians 4:15 (Pew Bible/Pg. ???/New Test.)

SECRETS FOR GREAT COMMUNICATION

Introduction:

Paul wrote this letter to the believers in Ephesus from a Roman **prison** around 61-63 AD. His purpose was to show Christians who they really were “in **Christ**.” Christ’s body, the Church though made up of Jews and Gentiles was **ONE** and not divided. It was comprised of people who were different in many ways and with different perspectives on life. Yet submitting to the same Christ as “head” or **Lord** would bring them into a unity in which they were to grow and be a witness.

We live in a broken and divided world. Yet the problem lies within a particular **unit** of society - the human family! It is no secret what Christ did for his Bride, the Church. He loved her and laid down his life for her. Now God wants Christian husbands and wives, with their children, to reflect on and live out this love at home. The key to valuing and building up any **relationship** is communication.

The word communication comes from the Latin *com-munis*, which means “to share, make common, or have a common faith.” So for believers, this is more than **exchanging** ideas or words. It’s about sharing a common life—Christ’s life in us—in a way that blesses others and causes us to become more like Jesus together.

Here are six secrets from Paul’s advice to the Ephesians (4:12-32) to help us improve our communication that we can **apply** in our family conversations:

I. **SECRET #1: SILENCE CAN SAY SOMETHING PROFOUND!**

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me” is not true! Inappropriate or rude words hurt people and can irreparably damage them for life! Paul exhorts us to speak the truth in love and shows us how lying and anger can **ruin** relationships (vs 25-27). So while there is a time to speak, there is also a time to keep silent! Within our families, the general principle, “If you have nothing good to say about someone say, **nothing** at all”, can be helpful.

II. **SECRET #2: SAY SOMETHING MEANINGFUL, DON’T SHUT DOWN!**

When we’re hurt, instead of lashing out, we often tend to hide—we cave in or bottle up our feelings and don’t communicate. This allows Satan to let bitterness and misunderstanding to develop within both parties (vs 30-32). Before the sun goes down, talk things over. Be **honest**, kind, tender-hearted, and forgive. Say “sorry” to one another. Being careful, yet truthful, promotes **harmony** in homes.

III. **SECRET #3: SHOW CHRIST’S MIND, DON’T GIVE OUT PIECES OF YOUR OWN!**

Our talk stems from the thoughts we cultivate, so we must **think** before we speak. Paul stresses the importance of having a Christ-like mind (vs 17, 23). We must not be ignorant of or **imitate** those who are unsaved. Rather each family member who has “learned Christ” must seek to understand the others (vs 18, 20). Only then will our attitudes and communication at home be winsome.

IV. **SECRET #4: SPEAK ONLY WHAT IS TRUE, DON’T LIE TO ONE ANOTHER.**

Telling “the whole truth and nothing but the truth” starts at home! A lie is any statement that contradicts the **facts**, misleads, or intends to **deceive**. It breaks trust and relationships. If we always speak the truth we don’t have to remember what we said yesterday! Did you know that hell was prepared for habitual **liars**? (Rev. 22:15). A loving family that speaks truth is a safe haven.