

Key Verses for Communicating in Love

Ephesians 4:25

NLT - So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.

ESV - Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

Ephesians 4:29

NLT - Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

ESV - Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Colossians 4:6

NLT - Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

ESV - Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Proverbs 21:23

NLT - Watch your tongue and keep your mouth shut, and you will stay out of trouble.

ESV - Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

Proverbs 15:2

NLT - The tongue of the wise makes knowledge appealing, but the mouth of a fool belches out foolishness.

ESV - The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly.

Proverbs 15:4

NLT - Gentle words are a tree of life; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.

ESV - A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Proverbs 10:31

NLT - The mouth of the godly person gives wise advice, but the tongue that deceives will be cut off.

ESV - The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off.

Proverbs 16:21

NLT - The wise are known for their understanding, and pleasant words are persuasive.

ESV - The wise of heart is called discerning, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.

Proverbs 16:23

NLT - From a wise mind comes wise speech; the words of the wise are persuasive.

ESV - The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious and adds persuasiveness to his lips.

Psalms 37:30

NLT - Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech.

ESV - Put away from you crooked speech and put devious talk far from you.

Proverbs 4:24

NLT - Then keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies!

ESV - Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

Proverbs 31:26

NLT - The godly offer good counsel; they teach right from wrong.

ESV - The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice.

James 1:26

NLT - If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless.

ESV - If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

James 3:5

NLT - In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire.

ESV - So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

I Timothy 4:12

NLT - Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

ESV - Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

Keys to being a good listener -

Poor Listeners	Good Listeners
Assumes the subject is uninteresting	Finds something interesting in what is said and asks questions
Focuses on the speaker's manner of expression (word choice)	Finds the message more important than grammar, sentence structure or wording.
Becomes overstimulated; makes snap judgments	Listens rationally; evaluates but suspends judgment
Listens only for the facts	Listens for the feelings too
Tries to outline the information	Notes patterns, traits, principles and basic ideas
Fakes attention to the person	Shows disciplined attention through brief comments and reactions
Is distracted by surroundings	Concentrates by focusing eyes and mind
Evades grappling with difficult information	Welcomes expression of difficult ideas or problems
Satisfied with only hearing what is first said	Probes for the idea, assumption, problem behind the surface words
Lets emotional words or situations block information flow	Maintains emotional control and is unshockable
Thinks about own response to what is being said	Thinks about what is being said, and if advice is sought, uses biblical principles