

HUH? WHAD'YA SAY?

Communication: the act or process of transmitting information.... Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

Ah, if there was ever a word so bantered about, so quickly cited as crucial to the well being of human relationships and so essential to the functioning of business and educational systems, communication is it. In light of the high priority assigned to the topic you'd think we'd be getting pretty good at it. Well I'm here to say that it ain't necessarily so.

Just yesterday I met with a gal whom I highly respect. As executive director of a major employer here in town and a member of I'm not sure how many non-profit boards in the community, we sipped our tea and discussed an up-coming conference dedicated to ...yep...communication. What we really ended up discussing was the need to improve dialogue within the common organization we represented. It didn't take a high degree of intelligence or education to come to the conclusion that a lack of mutual understanding is the quickest way to sabotage the work of any organization, regardless of its loftiest goals.

This morning our pastor spoke of the Scriptural mandate to pursue peace – to do all we can to maintain or restore broken relationships. To be called family, either as blood relatives or members of a shared faith, and to refuse to work at resolving conflicts is a contradiction of terms and purpose. "Huh, wha'd you say?" shouldn't have to be asked about the way we live.

Both events got me doing a lot of thinking because presenting ideas at a conference and living out a commitment to reconciliation are two very different things.

"[And I pray] that the ...sharing of your faith may produce and promote full recognition and appreciation and understanding and precise knowledge of every good [thing] that is ours in Christ Jesus." (Philemon 1:6 – AMP)