

There is Hope Radio 12-15-24-Addressing Issues

The following broadcast is sponsored by Standing in the Gap. Our focus is intercessory prayer for individuals, the community of Fairfield Bay, Arkansas, and America. Check us out on the web at standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org That's standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org.

Welcome to *There is Hope*. Any advice or counsel given is provided for informational purposes only.

Your host for There is Hope, Richard Dover. Welcome to There is Hope radio. In my last broadcast, I shared tips on how to have healthy communication.

After thinking about my last several broadcasts, I probably should share the tagline given to me by some of my friends. It's Let's Get Real. Some of what I share in these broadcasts is going to offend some people. It is not my intention, but if the shoe fits, wear it and take ownership. There are topics that need to be addressed, whether they're offensive or not. So I will say again, let's get real.

Please listen to me. At times, families have some serious issues. Communities have some serious issues. Churches have some serious issues. And certainly our nation has some serious issues. Sadly, too many times these issues are addressed in a very unhealthy manner.

This broadcast originates in Fairfield Bay, Arkansas. There has been much division, disunity, unhealthy disagreements and conflicts that have been community wide. It has been disheartening to see it all take place. But there's good news. There is hope. If the spirit of pettiness will be abandoned, if healthy communication tips are implemented and the principles I share in healthy ways to address serious issues are implemented, negativity can be replaced with positivity. Positive solutions can be implemented to resolve some serious issues. Guess what? The same can be true for America. So in this broadcast, I'm going to share about healthy ways to address serious issues.

Before I do, I want to repeat the tips on healthy communication I shared in my last broadcast, because if these tips are followed, they will certainly make it easier to address certain issues:

- One, speak the truth in love.
- Two, watch the words you speak.
- Three, speak with kindness.
- Four, be aware of body language.
- Five, have empathy.
- Six, be concise.
- Seven, avoid anger and resentment.
- Eight, listen actively.
- Nine, seek forgiveness and reconciliation.

There's something else I want to share before I share about healthy ways to address serious issues. I want to share things we should not do when addressing serious issues. They should

be obvious, but it appears at times it's not obvious to some. In fact, it seems like it's not obvious to many that are on Facebook and social media. So some of the things we should not do is: do not label, mock, or call names those whom you disagree with in an issue. Again, this should be obvious, but social media is filled with this type of behavior by those who claim they're standing for truth and justice. There is no truth or justice in such behavior. It's actually very immature, and to be blunt, it is childish behavior. Only dysfunctional people would support such behavior. And if you're Christian supporting such behavior, then you certainly need to repent.

Oh, by the way, I'm jumping ahead, but if you want to address serious issues, whenever possible, you need to do it face to face, not on social media, especially if you want to see positive change. That is not to say that social media cannot ever be a proper tool. I will talk about that more in a few minutes. If you're called to address a serious issue, do not claim or insinuate the heart or motives of a person. Think about it. If you do not appreciate a person doing it to you, why would you do it to them? By the way, your assumptions may be totally wrong, and you will look like a fool and a person who cannot be trusted. Listen, you certainly will not gain support for your position if you manifest bitterness, unforgiveness, spite, vindictiveness, or hate. I should reword this. The only support you would get is from individuals who support these actions, which are clearly dysfunctional individuals who have character flaws, especially if they claim to be Christians that support such behavior.

So I've shared tips on healthy communication and shared tips on things we should not do if we're going to address serious issues. What should we do if we're going to address serious issues? Oh, by the way, you can obtain transcripts from all my broadcasts by going to thereishoperadio.org. That is thereishoperadio.org. S

So here are tips on healthy ways to address serious issues.

Invite participation, not demand. Share you have something heavy on your heart and would like the opportunity to share your concerns. If you've caught the person off guard, realize that there may be hesitation. Give them assurance your purpose is not to go after them. If that is your purpose, you need to check your heart.

Face-to-face. Face-to-face is always better than via phone, but especially better than email and social media. There's nothing wrong in itself to interact or have discussion, even some debate via social media on certain topics if it's done in a healthy manner, but this be really honest. Rarely is it done in a healthy manner and certainly should not replace face-to-face discussion if it is possible.

Make it safe. Show consideration for others' personal beliefs.

Show respect. Allow questions for clarification purposes.

Strong emotions. Strong emotions can be normal. It is okay to have strong emotions as long as you're not personally attacking the individual. You do not need to apologize for the strong emotions, but should limit the manifestation of strong emotions if you want to be heard.

Stay focused. Determine to stay focused on your purpose for the conversation. Otherwise, you will jump from topic to topic and it will feel like your only purpose is to attack.

Check your heart. If that is your purpose, all you accomplish is division. Start with facts, not judgments or opinions. If you're sharing judgments you have made or opinions, make it clear what is fact and what is opinion. Your opinions matter, but they do not overrule facts. Check in.

As you share, check in regularly to make sure the person is understanding what you are saying. Do not focus on convincing. Your main goal should not be to convince. It should be to provide a different perspective based upon facts. Do not be apologetic. There's no need to be apologetic for what is your perspective.

You have a right for what you believe if it's based upon facts. If your opinions are based upon feelings, you don't have to apologize how you feel, but be humble. Your feelings may be inaccurate.

Be curious and humble. As you share and checking in, listen to the other person. What can you learn from them? Do not be defensive.

Hear their perspective. You may find out that you are an error in some of your perspectives. In fact, you may totally be incorrect in how you view something.

Last tip, end on a positive note. If someone has given you the time to listen to you, especially if they do not agree with you but shown you respect, show the same respect to them by thanking them for listening to you, not demanding they must agree with you.

So here's a summary of the tips on how to address serious issues. Again, you can obtain a transcript of this broadcast by going to thereishoperadio.org. That is thereishoperadio.org. Invite participation, not demand.

Face-to-face conversation

Make it safe.

Strong emotions are okay to share if done properly.

Stay focused.

V=Check you're heart. Start with facts, not judgments or opinions.

Check in. Do not focus on convincing. Do not be apologetic.

Be curious and humble.

End on a positive note.

I want to make it clear. I absolutely believe there is hope for families, for our communities, for our churches in America. And yes, Fairfield Bay, with all of its troubles, like many other communities. Why do I have hope? Why do I believe there's hope? Because I believe if the principles I have shared are followed, there will be more healthy communication, more healthy ways of dealing with serious issues, and because I believe in the power of prayer.

So in just a moment, I am going to pray. I'm going to ask you to join with me in prayer. But before we get to prayer, I want to share from my own heart what I've seen. Over the years, I've been somebody very involved in social media. I want who shares my opinions, my perspectives. I try to share what I believe is truth and facts. And in the midst of it, I've had

discussions, I've had debates with others, but I've always focused on, I want to hear what the other person has to say, and I'm never, ever determined to convince them what I believe or what I think or what I feel. Instead, I allow them to share their perspectives. I share mine. Some of those are going to be opinions and feelings. And then I leave it at that. And then it's up to them and others that read the different postings that we make to determine what they believe is accurate. It brings peace of mind for me and hopefully peace of mind for others.

The other thing that I would say is one thing I always focus on, I never attack the messenger. And I want to say one of the major things I see as a problem in our culture today is instead of attacking opinions and viewpoints and perspectives, there's attacking the messenger. I disagree with the person saying, so I attack them. I try to lessen their validity. And I certainly don't want that done to me, so I try to never, ever do that to others.

That's another principle you might learn to apply is do not attack the messenger. Well, we're about ready to end this broadcast, so I want to make sure we get to prayer because we believe in the importance of prayer. Heavenly Father, I want to pray for those who are listening.

I actually want to pray for myself also. Lord, I would pray that I, myself, and those who are listening, that all of us would apply the principles that I've been sharing for the last couple of broadcasts. That, Lord, we would make sure that we're not attacking the messenger, but we're taking a stand against the message if we disagree with it.

Lord, help us to stick with facts. Help us to stick with truth and try to stay away from the opinions and feelings. And if we do share, then we make it clear it's an opinion and feeling and that we may be wrong.

I pray, Lord, when there is these serious issues that have to be addressed, that there would be humbleness. There would be humility. And that, Father God, that we could acknowledge that maybe there's some things we're seeing wrong, that maybe we don't have all the answers. Maybe we don't have all the truth. Maybe we have been basing some of what we believe on gossip and rumors instead of on truth. And that, Lord, when we've been in error, that we would be willing to admit to it, to apologize, and, Father God, I would pray if we've done things publicly that's been wrong, that we would publicly repent. I know that's not common in our culture, but, Lord God, there should be so much healing, and there could be so much more better communication going on if when we have clearly been wrong that we admit to it. So I pray, Father God, that there would be a spirit of humility, a spirit of repentance, and that, Lord, we would operate out of love.

I should have shared that through all these points I've shared, that our number one motive should be love and that we would be controlled by love. If we would operate out of a spirit of love in regards to our families, to our communities, to our churches, to our nation, things would be much different. And so would you pour out the spirit of love on our hearts, that we could be people that manifest more love than hatred, and that, Father God, there could be healing throughout our nation. And we pray these things in Jesus' name.

Well, thank you for listening today. Again, there is hope. By the way, if you would like to talk with me on the phone, you can always reach me at 1-866-WANT-GOD.

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