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The Philosophy of Communication

Communication is viewed in different ways throughout the world. From culture to culture communication standards change, but the one constant is that it helps us all stay connected and plays a role in our day to day life. In my life I see myself as a fairly competent communicator, and I enjoy the various aspects that it involves. Through the principles of communication, we can see the basic skills that can turn an incompetent communicator into an effective communicator. As we communicate, it is important to recognize how our faith plays a role in the ways we communicate with those around us and what it means to us. This semester and the rest of my life I have goals and plans for developing my communication so I can become the most effective communicator possible.

As a communicator, I see myself as outgoing and easy to converse with. In my strengths quest, communicator ranked as my second strongest skill. Communicating has come almost as a second nature to me my whole life. I have developed a strong instinct when it comes to communicating one on one with others. Although I enjoy small talk, I prefer to have conversations that have meaning or are about more than just fluff. Growing up with my introverted sister, I often communicated for the two of us. These experiences have helped me to be very outgoing, because I did the majority of communicating for not only myself but also for my sister. Communicating has always fascinated me and I enjoy working on my communication skills. It is like a puzzle each time you meet someone new and learn the specific ways they communicate. As a communicator, I see myself as adventurous, always wanting to learn more about people and their various methods of communicating with those around them.

The principles and processes of communication provide a very basic outline or guideline to being an effective communicator. As Beebe and Mottet note in *Business and Professional Communication* (2010), the principles of communication can be organized into five basic concepts. The first is being aware of your communication with yourself and others. Here they make an important distinction that effective communication starts with being aware of yourself and how you communicate. The second principle is the ability to effectively use and interpret verbal messages. The ability to interpret messages is vital to communication, because nothing can be effectively communicated, if the receiver is incapable of interpreting the message. The third principle is being able to effectively use and interpret nonverbal terms. At all times, people are communicating nonverbally. What we do not say, and how we present ourselves often communicates more than our words do. The fourth principle is listening and responding thoughtfully to others. Communication is not limited to sending a message, being able to listen and respond thoughtfully makes a communicator go from average to effective. The final principle of communication outlined is being able to appropriately adapt messages to others. This final principle emphasizes that adapting to your audience is essential to being an effective communicator.

In my life Christianity and communication are closely related. Communication is how we share our thoughts, feelings, and beliefs so it plays a large role in who we are as Christians. Without communication there would be no way to share our faith to every nation. When we were created, God designed us to communicate with one another in ways that are unique to humans. Communication is a gift from God, and we should respect it by using it effectively and being good stewards of it. As Christians, we can see the power of communication in our lives and in others. Communication can be used to build people up, or tear them down, to bear good

news, or deliver devastating blows. When considering Christianity and communication we should also look at the principles and processes of communication. Effective communicators are better prepared to be strong Christian leaders going out into the world to make disciples of all nations.

Communication is a skill that is never fully mastered and can continually be refined. Throughout the rest of my life I will be learning to communicate effectively and efficiently with those around me. I plan to develop my communication competence by taking more courses in communication, and learning from those with more experience. I know that a lot of my learning will be through trial and error. Going out and communicating with people of varying backgrounds will be important as I work to become a better communicator. One aspect of competent communication that I want to work on is being more aware of nonverbal communication. I often am unaware of nonverbal communication, especially my own. I plan to develop my communication competence by paying more attention to the nonverbal aspects of communication.

Communication plays a vital role in our lives and it has undeniable importance. By developing into a competent communicator, I can be more effective in communication a skill that effects all areas of my life. Because communication and Christianity are closely related, it is important for Christians to be effective, and competent communicators during our time of grace. Ultimately, God has given us the gift of communication so that we can interact with the human race and share the good news of salvation for all. In the future I hope to become a better communicator as I work to hone my skills in effective communication.