

The background is a vibrant blue with a fine, pebbled texture. A solid, dark blue horizontal band runs across the lower portion of the image, serving as a backdrop for the text.

That Which Defiles...

James 3:2ff

Mathew 15:11-20



Communication Gone Wrong

Communication Gone Wrong

- Incognito has reportedly harassed and bullied multiple Dolphins employees and players, most notably Jonathan Martin.
- His contention, though, is that his actions are being unfairly portrayed. Out-of-context messages seem worse than they actually are, and he believes he is being painted as a racist monster.
- Consider...

- **“I'm not a racist, And to judge me by that one word is wrong. In no way, shape or form is it ever acceptable for me to use that word, even if it's friend to friend on a voicemail. I regret that.”**
- **“All this stuff coming out, it speaks to the culture of our locker room, it speaks to the culture of our closeness, it speaks to the culture of our brotherhood.”**
- **“It sounds terrible. It sounds, when it's on the screen, it sounds like I'm a racist pig, it sounds like I'm a meathead. It sounds like a lot of things that it's not. And I want to clear the air just by saying I'm a good person.”**

Judged By Our Words

- While it is likely that Incognito is not as horrible as he sounds – and his character is really not the point of this lesson, anyway – we can never be too careful about what we say (Matthew 12:33-37).
- Our words reveal a lot about us. Proverbs 26:23-26 says a man's "wickedness will be revealed before the assembly" because of his words.

No Hiding

- Nobody means for their 1,100 racist, profane text messages to become public dirty laundry. But we live in a time when nothing is hidden anymore. Actually, sin has always been hard to hide (Numbers 32:23, 1 Timothy 5:24-25).
- Controlling our online image is as important as controlling the tongue. It is all a part of who you are.

Practical Applications

- You do not need to have a Twitter opinion about everything (Proverbs 10:19).
- Instant response (Proverbs 12:16).
- Once written, harsh words can never be taken back (Proverbs 12:18).
- Jokes are often a very thin veneer for hate speech (Proverbs 26:18-19).
- In the digital age, gossip spreads even faster than ever. Don't fan the flame (Proverbs 26:20-21).

Your Workplace Culture

- It is a rather cheap excuse to blame workplace environment for poor behavior. It is a challenge, to be sure, but being different from the people around us is part of the Christian life (Matthew 5:13ff).
- This excuse might work for unbelievers, but we have to rise above the low expectations of the world and stand apart. “As for me and my house...” (Joshua 24:15).

Practical Applications

- Do not wait until you are in the middle of a career to decide the culture is too sinful to tolerate.
- We will always be surrounded by the world (1 Corinthians 5:10), so do not act shocked when you encounter evil at work.
- Invest in meaningful relationships with other Christians. The temptation to conform will lessen if you have a strong influence the other direction.

**Being a “good”
person...**

Ephesians 5:1-2

- *Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.*
- Matthew 5:48, John 13:34-35, Genesis 8:21, Exodus 29:18,25,41, Leviticus 1:9,13,17, 2:2,9.

W. 3-6

- *But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting but rather giving of thanks. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.*
- Proverbs 26:18ff

vv. 7-12

- *Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.*
- 1 Cor. 15:33, Matthew 5:14ff, 1 Thess. 5:4ff

VV. 13-14

- *But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. For this reason it says, 'Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'*
- John 5:25, Ephesians 2:1-5