Communication is a powerful tool of construction or destruction. In this course learners discover Biblical principles of interpersonal communication and conflict management in human relationships. The course gives attention to communication models, self-concept, non-verbal messages, stress, and other strategies that assist Christian leaders in developing interpersonal communication skills. In addition, the course focuses on the nature of conflict, how to identify common styles of conflict management, and how to manage conflict acceptably and productively.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course:
1. You should understand the nature of communication and how it works in both interpersonal and organizational context.
2. You should improve your listening skills.
3. You should have a clearer understanding of the nature of conflict.
4. You should have a better understanding of the biblical teaching on conflict and its management.
5. You should be able apply biblical church discipline.
Course Assignments: percentage of final grade

Attendance and participation is class activities.  10%

Verbatim reports, video exercises, guest speakers, etc.  10%

Collateral Reading  10%

Two additional books, one dealing with communication and one with conflict management, should be read.

Submit a two-page review for each of the books you choose to read (500-600 words for each review).  Provide an evaluation of your reading, not just a report of the facts.

Book Review & Presentation  20%

Read Peacemaking Pastor: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Church Conflict. and prepare a report. Summarize each chapter and give your personal reaction (pro or con) to the information. Be prepared to present your summary and reaction to any chapter.

A Diagnostic Case Study  10%

Report an analysis of an interpersonal encounter in which the principles taught in this course can be used as tools to probe what was and what was not effective communication in this situation. This will be an opportunity to re-live what you might have done differently.

Research Paper and Presentation.  20%

This study should focus on one of the topics presented in the course. This assignment should be designed so that 12 to 15 pages could adequately reflect your work. Present your findings to class. (20-30 minutes)

Final Exam.  20%

All assignments will be discussed in detail. A schedule of activities will be distributed with due date indicated. The content of this syllabus is subject to revision as announced in regular class periods. Every person is expected to be pro-active in meeting all class responsibilities in a timely and professional manner.
Bibliography


