

DUMB AND DUMBER: THIS IS YOUR WAY OUT PEOPLE SKILLS



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PROVERBS 18:2, 13

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IF WE WANT TO REACH PEOPLE WE NEED TO KNOW HOW TO WORK WITH PEOPLE.

"A Gossip talks to you about others. A bore talks to you about himself. A brilliant conversationalist talks to you about yourself." – William King

Proverbs 18:2, 13

A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion...¹³ If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

A Christian case for good people skills

1 Peter 4:15-16

But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.

¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

Matthew 5:11-12

*Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you **falsely** on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

2 Corinthians 8:21

*for we aim at what is **honorable** not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man.*

1 Peter 2:12

*Keep your conduct among the Gentiles **honorable**, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

Ways to exercise good people skills for the glory of God

- Ask good questions: Listening shows value.

Now then, *my sons*, **listen** to me...

Now therefore, *my sons*, **listen** to me,

"**Listen**, for I will speak noble things

"Now therefore, *O sons*, **listen** to me, a scoffer does not **listen** to rebuke.

Listen to counsel...

Listen, my son, and be wise,

Listen to your father who begot you,

"Blessed is the man who **listens** to me,

He whose ear **listens** to the life-giving

But he who **listens** to reproof acquires

An evildoer **listens** to wicked lips;

But the man who **listens to the truth**

Cease **listening**, my son, to discipline,

Is a wise reprover to a **listening** ear.

away his ear from **listening** to the law,

Proverbs 5:7

Proverbs 7:24

Proverbs 8:6

Proverbs 8:32

Proverbs 13:1

Proverbs 19:20

Proverbs 23:19

Proverbs 23:22

Proverbs 8:34

Proverbs 15:31

Proverbs 15:32

Proverbs 17:4

Proverbs 21:28

Proverbs 19:27

Proverbs 25:12

Proverbs 28:9

Proverbs 18:2, 13

A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion...¹³ If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

Proverbs 10:8

The wise of heart will receive commandments, but a babbling fool will come to ruin.

Proverbs 10:14

The wise lay up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool brings ruin near.

Proverbs 10:17

Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray.

Proverbs 10:19

When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

Proverbs 10:32

The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse.

Proverbs 12:15-16

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.¹⁶ The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent ignores an insult.

Proverbs 13:3

Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

FORD (Conversation guide)

Family
Occupation
Recreation
Dreams

- Affirm others.
 - a. Strategically speak words of life.
 - b. Express genuine gratitude.

Philippians 2:3

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

- Avoid complaining: Aim to be an energy giver rather than an energy taker.

Proverbs 15:13

A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed.

- Aim for a Gospel conversation.

John G. Stackhouse: "Christian wisdom, I suggest, is the real aim of evangelical theology."¹

Key: questions/Affirm/life/complaining/Gospel

¹ John G. Stackhouse Jr., *Evangelical Futures: A Conversation on Theological Method* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000), 90.