

LEADERSHIP LAB

Communication Killers

For any team or organization to be healthy, communication must be clear and effective. Many of us know some of the communication strategies that work. Sometimes we need to look at habits we have that we unconsciously do that end up undermining our communication efforts. Here are a few.

Assumptions

When we start to assume people get the message or know the information, we will sometimes find ourselves disappointed. Instead of assuming people know, we must assume people don't know. That way we can communicate in a loving and clear way. A great strategy is to ask questions. This helps us know where those we lead are at. Jesus did this all the time. He asked questions He already knew the answer to. But He wanted those he led to share where they were at. Many times it was revelatory for that person.

If you have someone who leads you, you can ask questions to clarify how your role plays out in the vision. Leaders appreciate this so much.

Offense

When we get offended by someone and do not handle it swiftly, a filter gets put on our heart. We now view that person (and sometimes life itself) through that lens. Then what happens is we start hearing things they did not say, and not hearing things they are saying.

Incomplete pass

As leaders, we sometimes throw a pass, but it never gets into the right hands. It's an incomplete pass. We must look at our level of communication and see where we need to add more. That way we don't have great ideas that never get executed.

Broken systems

Systems are one a leader's greatest tools. It allows an organization to grow and thrive. A broken system is a leader's greatest nightmares. It can cause constant frustration for those involved. A great leader will look at their systems and scrutinize it in the best way. Some great questions are: *Is it clear and obvious? Is it easy for people to get involved? Are there any holes that I need to fill?*

Lack of Honor

Honor starts in the heart. When there is a lack of honor for others, we treat people less than what would please God. A lack of honor stirs up division. Whenever there is division, a team cannot thrive. When we learn to cultivate a heart of honor for people, we can treat them in a way that glorifies God and develops a culture of unity.