A BLUE-RIBBON ATTITUDE

A teacher decided to honor each of her students by telling them the difference they had made in her life. Then she presented each of them with a blue ribbon that read “Who I Am Makes a Difference.” Afterward she decided to do a class project to see what kind of impact positive recognition would have on a community. She gave each of the students three more ribbons to go out and do the same for others. They were to follow up on the results, see who honored whom, and report back to the class.

One of the boys in the class went to a junior executive in a nearby company who had helped him with his career-planning project. The boy gave the junior executive a blue ribbon. Then he gave him two extra ribbons, and said, “We’re doing a class project on recognition, and we’d like you to go out and find somebody to honor. Give them a blue ribbon, then give them the extra ribbon so they can honor a third person. I’ll call you in a few days to see what happened.”

Later that day the junior executive went to see his usually grouchy boss. He told his boss that he admired him for being a creative genius. The boss seemed very surprised. The junior executive asked him if he would accept the gift of the blue ribbon. His surprised boss said, “Well, sure.” As he gave him the last extra ribbon, he said, “Would you do me a favor? Would you take this extra ribbon and pass it on by honoring somebody else? The young boy who first gave me the ribbons is doing a project in school, and we want to keep this going and find out how it affects people.”

That night the boss came home to his 14-year-old son and sat him down. He said, “The junior executive came in and told me he admired me and gave me a blue ribbon for being a creative genius. Imagine. He thinks I’m a creative genius. Then he gave me this blue ribbon that says ‘Who I Am Makes a Difference’. He gave me an extra ribbon and asked me to find somebody to honor. As I was driving home tonight, I started thinking about whom I would honor with this ribbon and I thought about you.”

“My days are really hectic, and when I get home I sometimes scream at you for not getting good enough grades in school and for your bedroom being a mess. But tonight I just want you to know that you do make a difference to me. Besides your mother, you are the most important person in my life. You’re a great kid, and I love you.”

“Thanks, Dad,” the boy managed quietly. “I was just thinking about you defuse the situation? Should you call in an adult? Why or why not? What do you do to keep it from happening again?"
**Are your mouth and your face getting you into trouble? Have your parents or other adults asked you to straighten your face, stop rolling your eyes, watch your mouth, adjust your attitude, or not talk to them in that tone of voice? And have you felt frustrated because you didn’t realize what you were doing? Just like anything else, changing these habits will take some effort on your part. After all the devil loves to get us to give in to our human nature. You may have to spend some quiet time thinking about what you do and why you do it, then praying that the Spirit will help you to come up with alternatives. God and hopefully the adults and friends in your life is willing to forgive and give you the strength to adopt new and more positive ways of communicating.**

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**REFLECTING**

- *Read Colossians 4:6.*
- *Read Ephesians 4:29–32.*
- *Review the memory text.*
- *Read Philippians 4:8, 9.*
- *Read Colossians 3:8, 9, 12, NIV.*
- *Read 1 Thessalonians 5:15, NIV.*
- *Read Acts 20:35, NKJV.*
- *Read Romans 12:12, 13.*
- *Read James 3:9, 10.*
- *Read James 4:1, 2.*
- *Read Philippians 4:8, 9, NIV.*
- *Read Colossians 4:6, NIV.*
- *Read Ephesians 4:29–5:19, NIV.*
- *Read Colossians 3:8, 9, 12.*
- *Read Philippians 4:8, 9, NIV.*
- *Read Colossians 4:6, NIV.*
- *Read Ephesians 4:29–5:19, NIV.*

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**BUILDUPS**

- *Whatever is ____________, whatever is ____________, whatever is ____________, whatever is ____________, think about such things.*
- *Put it into practice* (Philippians 4:8, 9, NIV).
- *Put it into practice* (Colossians 4:6, NIV).
- *Follow God’s ____________. . . . Among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of ____________, or of greed . . . Nor should there be ____________, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving . . . Be filled with the _____________. . . . Get _____________. . . . Be ____________; and along with every form of _____________. . . . Be ____________. . . . Put it into practice* (Philippians 4:8, 9, NIV).
- *Let your ____________ be ____________ to ____________ men. The Lord is at ____________.* (Philippians 4:5, NKJV).
- *Whatever is ____________, whatever is ____________, whatever is ____________, whatever is ____________, think about such things.*
- *Put it into practice* (Philippians 4:8, 9, NIV).
- *Let your ____________ be ____________ to ____________ men. The Lord is at ____________.* (Philippians 4:5, NKJV).

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**TRANSFORMING THE CRITICAL SPIRIT / March 7, 2020**

**BIBLE INSIGHTS**

1. "Let your ____________ be ____________ to ____________ every-one" (Colossians 4:6, NIV).

2. "Whatever is ____________, whatever is ____________, whatever is ____________, whatever is ____________, if anything is ____________, think about such things . . . Put it into practice" (Philippians 4:8, 9, NIV).

3. "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up, according to what is needed, that it may benefit those who listen . . . Get _____________. . . . and anger, brawling and _____________. Be ____________, giving ____________; and along with every form of _____________. . . . Be ____________. . . . Put it into practice* (Philippians 4:8, 9, NIV).

4. "But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as: rage, malice, slander, filthy ____________, with ____________, so that you may know how to ____________ every-one" (Colossians 4:6, NKJV).

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**PUT-DOWNS**

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