



Biblical Counselling UK

# Talking Church

How personal conversations  
grow local congregations

Mon 21 – Wed 23 March 2022



## SESSION 3

# Conversation killers – barriers to a talking church

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# A range of conversation killers (inhibitors)

'Ordinary'  
&  
everywhere

'More troubling'  
&  
still common

'Very troubling'  
&  
often hidden



# Conversation killers: Ordinary and everywhere

- Busyness
- Awkwardness (for some, =British reserve)
- Perfectionism
- People pleasing



# Conversation killers: Ordinary and everywhere

Questions to ask:

- How many activities?
- Which people lead / give testimony?
- How respond to errors & mistakes?
- What culture are we creating?



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# Conversation killers:

## More troubling, and still common

- Peace prioritized
- Efficiency over all
- Tribal identity dominant
- Unity paramount



# Unity matters

How good and pleasant it is  
when God's people live together in unity!  
It is like precious oil poured on the head,  
running down on the beard

*Psalm 133:1-2*

Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love,  
being one in spirit and of one mind.

*Philippians 2:2*

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one  
another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit  
through the bond of peace.

*Ephesians 4:2-3*



# Conversation killers:

## More troubling, and still common

- Peace prioritized
- Efficiency over all
- Tribal identity dominant
- **Unity is paramount**
- **Reputation is protected**



# Reputation matters

He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. **He must also have a good reputation with outsiders**

*1 Timothy 3:6-7*

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, **they may see your good deeds** and glorify God on the day he visits us.

*1 Peter 2:12*

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that **they may see your good deeds** and glorify your Father in heaven.

*Matthew 5:16*



# Conversation killers:

## More troubling, and still common

Questions to ask:

- How does our church measure success?
- What tribe are we and what rules do we have?
- How can we permit awkward conversations?
- What is important enough to disrupt unity for?
- What reputation should we want?



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# Conversation killers:

Very troubling, and often hidden

Five warning signs

- Invoking divine authority
- Undermining dissenting voices
- Threatening exclusion
- Accountability captured
- Binary thinking



# Conversation killers:

Very troubling, and often hidden

Questions to ask:

- How transparent are our decisions?
- How accountable are our leaders?
- How shared is our decision making?



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# Revelation 7:9-10

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God,  
who sits on the throne,  
and to the Lamb.”



## Revelation 7:17-8:1

‘Never again will they hunger;  
never again will they thirst.  
The sun will not beat down on them,  
nor any scorching heat.  
For the Lamb at the centre of the throne  
will be their shepherd;  
‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’  
‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven  
for about half an hour.



# Sometimes conversation killers are good: Reflection and prayer

- Worship the Lamb
- Put him where he belongs...

