



First Mt. Olive Freewill Baptist Church

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Title: Horizontal Agreement

Series: THE POWER OF AGREEMENT

Text: Matthew 18:18-20

Date: Sunday, May 15, 2022



Thematic Focus Scripture: Matthew 18:18-20

18“Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

19“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”

20“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

I. Our focal text reveals the true strength of agreement with God, self, and others. I have labeled them as:

- Vertical Connection
- Inner Connection
- Horizontal Connection

By far, most will agree that the greatest challenge is mastering horizontal connections.

- II. It has been said that mankind has the highest level of social abilities. Our level of communication is so advanced and sophisticated that we can convey messages that not only confuse others but can confuse ourselves.

Problem 1: That _____ have different meanings based upon the context in which they are used.

Problem 2: _____

Problem 3: _____

Problem 4: and _____

Problem 5 and _____

III. The Language of Action/Activity

Language of Action suggests that there is a combination of language and actions.

In Dr. Fernando Flores' book, "Conversations for Action and Collected Essays," he included his doctoral dissertation entitled, "The Office of the Future."

He said, "Language has many dimensions. We have words and sounds and writings. But language also has the dimension of acts - the way we do things with a language and that language does with us."

Dr. Fernando suggested that the speech acts or the language of action are divided into two main categories:

- _____ - acts spoken of request and offers
- _____ - acts spoken to commit to the future course of action

IV. These two (2) categories play out in five (5) forms/actions:

1. _____ – A speaker declares a new world of possibilities for action in a community.
2. _____ – A speaker asks the listener to take care of something that the speaker is concerned about.
3. _____ – A speaker offers or promises to take care of something that a listener is concerned about.
4. _____ – A speaker assesses how some action or thing is related to specific concerns or commitments.
5. _____ – A speaker asserts facts pertinent to the concern at hand.

V. For example, many people are now asking the question, what is _____? Some say there are five (5):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

These languages sound nice on paper but are often _____

_____.

The strength of my language of actions comes down to the ability to

_____.

Therefore, I want to go back to Dr. Fernando's points of "Language Action."

VI. We must learn that our language of action, according to the standards of God, is to:

- Declare – _____

- Request – _____

- Offer/Promise – _____

- Assess – _____

- Assert – _____

VII. So, I must be clear on the language that I am using today. When one is clear on their position, then it does not send any mixed messages to others.

Let's repeat:

1. Declare – _____

2. Request – _____

3. Promise – _____

4. Assess – _____

5. Assert – _____