

Code Talkers

From Winnie the Pooh's Tigger and "TTFN" (ta ta for now), to the Navajo Code Talkers and the unbreakable WWII secret code based on their Native American language, mankind communicates in codes. Youth culture coins or repurposes words such as "cool", "dude", "righteous", "out of sight", "heavy", "man", "dog", "'sup?", "yo", "keepin' it real", "bangin'" to converse in the open without fully disclosing the content. This happens in nearly every language and time period. Corporations, businesses and even churches have their own unique language in code which only the "enlightened" clearly understand and can use to communicate. While reading a biography of Isaac Newton, I realized the mathematical code frequently used in the book would have had my eyes glazing over and spinning in their sockets if someone hadn't actually been reading the book to me. Yes, we communicate in code. And, not everyone understands the code.

Nor is it always as "simple" to recognize as some of those examples. Husbands and wives communicate in code. Sometimes even one member of *this* intimate partnership doesn't clearly understand the code that's being used. Comedians have made lots of money and left audiences howling with laughter at their observations of the ensuing chaos. All of these things lead to a great potential for miscommunication—when the commonly shared understandings are no longer shared by all involved parties.

One reason this miscommunication takes place is because words (our most recognized common code) may acquire different meanings or connotations. "Cool" once described a condition akin to temperature. Then it came to signify a human attitude or outlook. Later it would be a shortened code for "there's no problem."

With the advent of electronic communications and the inundation of texting, the problems inherent in code just keep multiplying. Unless the code used is typed in ALL CAPS (suggesting screaming), the senses we rely on for interpreting codes have almost no clues to guide them. It becomes simply another potential for miscommunication. Without the "non-verbal" clues to accompany the code, a person is left to their own deeply colored perceptions to interpret the coded message. And, yes, we get it wrong...often. So, clarity and compassion is paramount.

Even the Church, God's intricately-designed "Bride" of Christ gives multitudinous potential for miscommunication. God's Word reminds us that He communicates through the "foolishness of preaching", lest we think His miracles are the result of human ingenuity. "The heavens declare the glory of the LORD..." is another reminder from scripture that all humanity is without excuse for missing His all-powerful existence and creative handiwork. Grace among believers, then, is essential.

Often the crucible of suffering is the path to comprehend the purpose of God in us. This, too, is not without its potential for miscommunication. Job's friends saw his suffering as evidence he had sinned against God. Too many times well-meaning Christians try to "vouch for God" by offering platitudes (Christian code) such as, "God needed your loved one more than you." Unfortunately for humanity, the grand purpose of God is most often unknown until we see it in hindsight. Even then, we may be left wondering and trying to decipher the code. Consequently, contentment equals peace.

As we move through this day and the days that follow, I'd like to encourage you to ask God to allow you to comprehend His plan for you. Then "be still" and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into the truth. Be content to only "see in part". It's an exercise in trust. It's about believing God will reveal His code to us as we need to know, believing He genuinely has our best interest at heart...and, ultimately, His perfect plan. Then, live. Like the ever-springy Tigger, take pleasure in the journey. "TTFN!"