Marriage: Communication (The Tie That Binds)

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday July 15th, 2018

Text: Rom. 12:9-13, 16

### Intro

1. Communication solves many misunderstandings and can reduce drama in relationships!
   1. Many stories (books, movies, TV) wouldn’t have a plot, or would have no story if there was good communication at the start!
   2. Drama and conflict is created (or seems forced) by lack of communication. There would be no story if the characters had good communication!
   3. While it is frustrating and seems like it all could have been solved at the beginning of the story, these problems mirror life, and is why it is prevalent in story-telling throughout time!
2. Communication is a ***building block*** of any successful relationship:
   1. God communicates to us all through His Son – *Heb. 1:1-2; Acts 20:32*
   2. Children of God communicate with God the Father through prayer – *Mt. 6:9*
   3. Parents and children must talk with each other – *Eph. 6:4 (Mt. 7:9-11)*
   4. Husbands and wives must communicate effectively to strengthen the tie that binds *(I Pet. 3:7)* and reduce the drama in marriage…
3. *Why do husbands and wives fail to effectively communicate?*

#### REASONS HUSBANDS AND WIVES DO NOT COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY…

* 1. They Begin Taking Each Other for Granted (Probably Wasn’t Always So)
     1. Love does not assume or take for granted; it cherishes and delights in the one it loves (Song of Solomon 2:3; 3:1-4).
        1. When you love someone, you will do all you can to ensure the safety of that person and care for his or her needs, even at a cost to your personal comfort.
        2. This is demonstrated most often in small actions—getting your spouse a glass of water, leaving work early to attend some function your child is involved in, or sacrificing your personal comfort to tend to the needs of your family.
        3. Notice what each does for the other and show appreciation!
     2. World says: “Familiarity breeds contempt”; but God says get familiar and stay that way! – Gen 2:18, 24; Mt. 19:4-6 (Start new family with spouse!)
  2. They Want to Avoid a Confrontation
     1. Past conflict can prevent present communication (Prov. 21:9, 19).
     2. Can convince ourselves it “won’t do any good”; and, if we react toward each other in negative ways – we are right! (Col 4:6)
     3. Break the cycle of conflict, silence and avoidance:
        1. With a soft answer (Prov. 15:1-2), not in accusing tones.
        2. By always thinking the best of each other (I Cor. 13:5) – won’t accuse!
        3. By stopping the arguing and reconcile (Prov. 20:3; Mt. 5:23-24: If applies to a brother, certainly applies to spouse!).
        4. With a real commitment to listen to each other (Js. 1:19).
        5. By removing wrath from your heart (Prov. 15:18; Eph. 4:31; Col. 3:8).
  3. They are Obsessed with Their Own Interests – I Cor. 13:5
     1. Sin of selfishness (no self-control – II Tim 3:3; Gal 5:23) – Phil 2:3-4
     2. How/where we spend our time, money, interests, etc. equates to value, devotion, security and trust (Lk. 12:15; Mt. 16:26; I Cor. 13:5).
        1. A Husband whose first concern is his own satisfaction is not following Christ (Eph. 5:25; I Tim 5:8).
        2. A Wife whose first concern is her own pleasure is not following Christ (Eph. 5:22, 24; Prov. 31:27).
     3. **Solution:** 
        1. Make effort to be interested in what interests your spouse (Eccl. 4:9-11) – *Remember what drew you to each other in the first place!*
        2. Do things together! (Children, recreation, etc.)
        3. Nurture your shared faith! (Study, pray together, etc.)
     4. **Goal:**
        1. Take time to notice and show appreciation for even the little things done for one another!
        2. Make effort to communicate without conflict and reconcile to each other!
        3. Do things together (as couple and as family, if children)!
  4. They Feel That They are Being Manipulated
     1. ***Joke:*** “Husband is the head, but the wife is the neck that turns the head!” While it may be funny, it describes a dysfunctional relationship that is not honoring God’s arrangement for marriage (Eph. 5:33).
        1. ***The Biblical concept:*** “Husband is the head, but the wife is the neck that supports the head!” (Gen. 2:18: She is a “suitable helper”)
     2. Why does a husband feel like he is being manipulated?
        1. Maybe because he is!
        2. He may be silenced into submission (compliance) by a domineering wife (I Pet 3:3-6).
        3. Maybe because he is not leading his family firmly, decisively and consistently *(I Pet 3:6: Sarah couldn’t obey if Abraham wasn’t leading!)*
     3. Why does a wife feel like she is being manipulated?
        1. Maybe because she is!
        2. The husband only shows interest in her when he wants something for himself! *(I Pet 3:7)*
     4. *Contributes to resentment, distrust and animosity!*
     5. Communication is “sharing” – not controlling (Rom 12:10).
  5. They Say They are Too Busy to Take the Time – Eph. 5:16
     1. Communication takes a commitment of time (Col 4:5-6).
     2. “I have no time” can be an easy excuse for couples to close off their hearts from one another.
     3. We have time to watch TV, play video games, ride bicycles, take walks, etc. – Time can be made to attend to your relationship by simply talking to and listening to each other!
     4. Don’t be a “Martha” and miss your opportunity *(Lk. 10:38-42)!*
  6. They Don’t Want to Hurt the Other Person – Prov. 27:5-6, 17; 28:23
     1. Do you want to help your spouse? (Sometimes help hurts – “Truth Hurts”)
     2. Are you willing to accept help from your spouse – even if it exposes your shortcoming, fault or sin?
     3. Humble hearts are necessary in order to give correction to and to receive correction from our spouses! (Rom 12:16)
     4. **Solution:**
        1. Spouses must help each other know that they always have each other’s best interest at heart (I Cor. 13:5; Eph. 5:33; Col. 3:18-19).
     5. **Goal:**
        1. Show preference to each other!
        2. Take time out for each other (talking, recreation, hobbies, etc.)
        3. Strengthen each other and help each other go to heaven!
  7. Communication is the key to strengthening the tie that binds and reducing drama and stress from your marriage!

## Conclusion

1. A marriage without communication is like a car without fuel; it won’t go very far for very long…it will sputter and die!
2. Rom. 12:9-13, 16: Communication will be the natural product of building our marriages on…
   1. Sincerity (without hypocrisy) and Goodness – 12:9
   2. Kind Affection (NKJ) and Preference to one another in Honor – 12:10
   3. Diligent Service (to each other and to the Lord) – 12:11
   4. Joyful Hope, Persevering in Trials and Prayer – 12:12
   5. Sympathetic Giving (Hospitality) and Unity – 12:13, 16
3. **GOAL:**
   1. PUT GOD FIRST IN YOUR MARRIAGE (Col. 3:12-19)
   2. MAKE YOUR SPOUSE'S WELL-BEING YOUR PRIORITY (I Cor. 13:5; Phil. 2:4)
   3. BECOME GOOD COMMUNICATORS (Prov. 15:1-2; Js. 1:19-20; Eph. 4:29)
   4. NEVER REFUSE TO FORGIVE EACH OTHER (Col. 3:12-14)
4. Old Saying, “Forget injuries. Never forget kindness!”
5. Make time to communicate with your spouse as it will strengthen your marriage and reduce drama, stress, and conflict!
6. Let us strive to be the husbands and wives God wants us to be!
7. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
8. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
9. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!