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1st Order of Business -- Marriage

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1st ORDER OF BUSINESS--MARRIAGE

1. In the beginning - before a husband, a wife, a child I'm foolish enuf to believe there must be a marriage.

A. Bible has many words it uses.

1. Gameo (gah-may'o) - from root "to fit together, to pair.

a.) Another connection of word is beget, bring forth

b.) Thus, legitimacy of sexual relations & children born.

c.) We saw it violated with concubines & sacred prostitutes.

d.) Gameo.

e.) Tho no prescribed ceremony, OT put great importance on marriage.

Gen. 1:26-27 Read

2:18-24 Read

Deut. 17:17 King "Neither shall he multiply ^{wives}

I Kings 11:1-11 "But S. loved many ^{strong women}

f.) Adultery severely punished. 4-6-8

Deut. 22:22-27 "If a man be found lying ^{c 2 women} married

Exo. 20:14 "Thou shalt not commit"

Lev. 18:20 "Moreover thou shalt ^{lie carnally c thy neigh} wife

20:10 "put to death"

I Cor. 6:12-20 Read

g.) Sexuality restrained to channels directed by God.

h.) Mixed marriages frowned upon.

Deut. 7:3 "Neither shalt thou make m. ^{c them}

10. Some forbidden marriages.

Lev. 18:6-18 - Kin, Various Relations.

22 "Thou shalt not lie c mankind *as c wom kind*

Deut. 27:20-23 "Same all amen - *Read*

Lev. 21:7 "No whore or profane" (Read)

i.) No restriction on age.

Prov. 2:16-~~27~~ Read

5:18 "Rejoice c the wife of thy y.

j.) Was exempt from army.

Deut. 24:5 - War, business - 1 yr.

2. In New Testament.

a.) Frequent reference to OT creation story.

Matt. 19:4-5 "Made them male & female

b.) Emphasizes a shared life.

I Cor. 7:3 "Let the husband render unto

Eph. 5:21-33 Like church

c.) Attacks impurity & divorce + error.

I Tim. 4:3 "Forbidding to marry"

Matt. 5:31-32 Read *whoever shall put away*

(1) Porneia = unchastity.

(2) Note our word.

d.) Attended c joy.

John 2:1-11 Wedding Feast

e.) Used in teaching great lessons.

Rom. 9:25 Hosea

2 Cor. 11:2 "I am jealous = 1 husband.

Eph. 5:22 "Wives, submit yourselves

Matt. 12:39 "An adulterous generation

Rev. 17:1 "great whore"

f.) Viewed as indissoluble.

Mk. 10:8 "And the twain shall be

g.) Koite (Coy-tay) = bed, den of animals.

Rom. 13:13 "not in chambering"

Heb. 13:4 "Marriage is honorable"

II. How well are we functioning in marriage today?

A. Some quotes.

1. Wright "Let's face it" #1.

2. Wright "Cynical" #2.

3. Smith #3.

4. Wright "Lack" #4.

B. What's the Problem?

1. Sex?

2. Money?

3. Religion?

4. Children?

5. Alcohol?

6. Many cite Communication. It surely is in top 3 reasons for decline.

C. Let's deal c problem of Communication for it outlasts all but religion.

1. Howe quote #5.

2. Porcupine story #6.

3. Solomon.

Prov. 18:13 "He that answereth a matter before he hear"

a.) Listen carefully. *it is folly & a shame unto him*

b.) Know situation before stating a conclusion.

III. Facts About Communication.

A. Powell & 5 Levels #7.

B. Satir Ideas #8.

C. Specialists & Message #9.

D. Nash (Ogden).

"To keep your marriage brimming c love, in the loving cup when you're wrong admit it, & when you're right shut up."

(Are you a man or a mouse - squeak up. The best big decision she let him make was whether to wash or dry).

E. Thus, some guidelines.

7 Guideline

1. Listen - truly do.

- a.) May come at poor time for conversation - late, tired, sleepy.
- b.) Don't forever put it off.
- c.) It may be hard for her to bring up the subject, remember.
- d.) Don't over listen c too much correction.
- e.) Don't out guess or anticipate.

"I was at store today" - - - -

"You forgot the list!"

f.) Don't cross examine.

James 1:19 "Swift to hear, slow to speak - wrath

2. Be slow to speak.

Prov. 15:23 "A word spoken in due season - good. ^{how?} it is

28 "Righteous studies to ans ⁱⁿ tongue keep span

21:23 "Whoso keeps his mouth - trouble.

29:20 "Hasty? More hope for a fool.

3. Speak truth in love.

10

Col. 3:9 "Lie not one to another

a.) Charlotte Clinebell #11.

b.) Self esteem #12.

4. Avoid anger.

5. Admit error.

James 5:16 "Confess your faults

I Pet. 4:8 "Above all things - charity

6. Don't nag.

Prov. 10:19 "He that refraineth his lips is wise.

17:9 ^{love} Cover or Repeat *separateth friends*

20:5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep

7. Try to understand. *water - but a man of*

Phil. 2:1-4 Read *understanding will draw*

F. May I suggest other things. *it out*

1. Does wife talk too much - Tennyson's brook - go babbling forever.

2. Does man talk too much of own subjects & clobber hers?

3. Some pumps have to be primed.

4. Do you have the ability to apologize?

*Charlotte Ave. Home and Family Workshop 5-12-80
West End 11-17-82*

Choice

The *London Daily Telegraph* records the sad story of a woman who shot her husband to death with a bow and arrow. Asked to explain her choice of weapons, she told the court: "I did not want to wake the children."

A father of 28 children sued for a divorce claiming he'd always been unhappily married. "You see, your Honor," said the husband, "I thought eventually I'd lose her in the crowd."

Let us face it. In recent years marriage has been getting "bad press." That once permanent bastion of security and "'til death do us part" commitment has become for too many an impermanent gamble lasting "'til divorce seems convenient."

In the church or out, the problems are there. The ardor, enthusiasm and excitement of courtship fade into a grey routine of work, raising kids, and sitting glassy-eyed in front of the tube until the 10:00 o'clock news signs off. Life grinds on and inevitably there is a decline in understanding as the communication gap grows wider and wider. Many couples lack the elementary communication skills needed to produce the understanding necessary for a marriage to grow strong, or even exist, in these times of "swapping, swinging and shacking."

"Communication: Key to Your Marriage" - By H. Norman
(first page of Foreword) Wright

Cynic "It is the only game of chance
at which both players can lose!" (How
about both winning.)

Sidney Smith "Marriage resembles a pair of #3
shears, so joined that they cannot be separated;
often moving in opposite directions, yet always
penetrating anyone who comes between them."

Lack of determination to stay married is seen today on every hand. To have had more than one husband or wife is not considered at all unusual. As one woman filled out an application for a new job, she came to the question, "Married or Single?" Her answer: "Between marriages."

"Communication: Key to Your Marriage" - By H. Norman
Wright

(Second page of Introduction)

If there is any indispensable insight
with which a young married couple should
begin their life together, it is that they
should try to keep open, at all cost,
the lines of communication between
them.

"Herein is Love" Revue Howe

Someone has likened this adjustment to two porcupines who lived in Alaska. When the deep and heavy snows came they felt the cold and began to draw close together. However, when they drew close they began to stick one another with their quills. When they drew apart they felt the cold once again. In order to keep warm they had to learn how to adjust to one another.

"Communication: Key to Your Marriage" - By H. Norman
Wright

(Second page of Introduction)

In his excellent book, "Why Am I Afraid to Tell You Who I Am?", John Powell asserts that we communicate on at least five different levels, from shallow cliches to deep personal honesty.

Level Five: Cliche Conversation.

Level Four: Reporting the Facts About Others. We offer no personal commentary on these facts. We share gossip and little narrations but we do not commit ourselves as to how we feel about it.

Level Three: My Ideas and Judgments. The person is willing to step out of his solitary confinement and risk telling some of his ideas and decisions.

Level Two: My Feelings or Emotions.

Level One: Complete Emotional and Personal Truthful Communication. Based on absolute openness and honesty.

"Communication: Key to Your Marriage" - By H. Norman
Wright

pp. 67-68

A person who communicates in a healthy ^{#8} functional way can

- 1) firmly state his case
- 2) yet at same time clearly & qualify who he says
- 3) always ask for feedback
- 4) and be receptive to " " when he gets it

"Conjoint Family Therapy"

Virginia Satir

Communication specialists point out that when you talk with another person there are actually six messages that can come through.

1. What you mean to say.
2. What you actually say.
3. What the other person hears.
4. What the other person thinks he hears.
5. What the other person says about what you said.
6. What you think the other person said about what you said.

119

Discouraging? Rather. But it does illustrate why communication is often hard work. We want the other person not only to listen, but to understand what we mean. The old proverb, "Say what you mean and mean what you say," is a worthy goal, but not an easy one to achieve.

"Communication: Key to Your Marriage" - By H. Norman Wright

Don't "Throw Your Feelings" at Your Spouse #10

Learn how to inform your spouse of your feelings. Don't hurl them like a spear or a rock.

Dr. Howard Clinebell suggests that a "...road to productive communication is for both husband and wife to learn the skill of "saying it straight." Each person can help the other to understand by asking himself, 'Am I saying what I really mean?' This involves learning to be aware of what one is actually feeling and developing the ability to put the feeling clearly into words. Direct rather than devious, specific rather than generalized statements are required. A wife criticizes her husband as he sits at the breakfast table hidden behind his newspaper, "I wish you wouldn't always slurp your coffee." What she really means is, 'I feel hurt when you hide in the newspaper instead of talking to me.' Saying it straight involves being honest about negative as well as positive feelings, and being able to state them in a non-attacking way: 'I feel...', rather than 'You are ...'. Some risk is required in the beginning of this kind of communication, until both husband and wife can trust the relationship enough to be able to say what they really mean.

"James Farmer tells a story about a woman who acquired wealth and decided to have a book written about her genealogy. The well-known author she engaged for the assignment discovered that one of her grandfathers had been electrocuted in Sing Sing. When he said it would have to be included in the

book, she pleaded for a way of saying it that would hide the truth. When the book appeared, it read as follows: 'One of her grandfathers occupied the chair of applied electricity in one of America's best known institutions. He was very much attached to his position and literally died in the harness.' The meaning in some attempts to communicate between marriage partners is almost as hidden and confusing. It is usually better to 'say it like it is' , gently if necessary, but clearly."

In the words of the Preacher: There is a right time for everything: . . . a time to be quiet; a time to speak up (Eccl. 3:1,7, TLB).

"Communication: Key to Your Marriage" - By
H. Norman Wright

pp. 149-150

Some other ideas for dealing with an emotional situation in a ^{#11} healthy way are offered by Howard and Charlotte Clinebell in their book, "The Intimate Marriage": "A couple may find it helpful to ask themselves questions such as these: Is this really an issue worth fighting over or is my self-esteem threatened by something my spouse has said or done? In relation to this issue or problem area, **what** do I want and what does my partner want that we are not getting? What must I give in the relationship in order to satisfy the needs of my partner, myself in this area? What small next step can we take right now toward implementing this decision, made jointly through the give-and-take of discussion?"

"Communication: Key to Your Marriage" - By H. Norman
Wright

pp. 106-107

No matter where you are as husband and wife, you will want to keep communication lines open. A key to communication--perhaps the key--is building your mate's self-esteem. A person's self-^{#12}esteem is his overall judgment of himself--how much he likes his particular person. High self-esteem doesn't mean you are on a continual ego-trip. High self-esteem means you have solid feelings of self-respect and self-worth. You are glad you are you.

"Communication: Key to Your Marriage" - By H. Norman Wright

Page 160