The Problem of Communication as a Threat to the Home

1 Peter 5:8

INTRODUCTION:

A. Illustration: A lady came to the preacher’s office and said, “I need a little counseling. I need to see about getting a divorce.”
   The preacher asked, Do you have any grounds?”
   She said, “Yes sir, we have about an acre, acre and a quarter out there on the edge of town.
   The preacher said, “No, no, I mean do you have a grudge?” “No, but we have the prettiest little carport you ever saw.”
   The he said, “Lady does the man beat you up?”
   The she said, “On no, I’m up nearly every morning about an hour and a half before he is.”
   The preacher said, “Then I don’t understand why you want the divorce.”
   She said, “Because there is no way you can carry on an intelligent conversation with the man.”

B. 1 Peter 5:8 – “Be sober! Be on the alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.”

C. Sometimes life is more real than we wish it to be.
   1. A depressed wife pours out her feelings to her husband. In answer he merely grunts and turns the page of the newspaper or changes the television channel . . . . . . That’s a communication problem!
   2. A frustrated mother trying to reason with her rebellious teenage son wonders, “Why can’t I talk to him?” . . . . . . That is a communication problem!
   3. Young man in my class at the David Lipscomb College summer lectures came to me after one of the sessions and said, “Can I please talk to you. My dad won’t listen to me. He is an elder in the church. He has time for everyone else but me. Will you talk to me?” . . . . . . That is a communication problem!
   4. Parents trying to talk with the teenagers begin to know why bears eat their young.

D. Our day is a day of sad situations in our society.
   1. Full and overcrowded jails . . . . . . And empty Bible school classes.
   2. Acres of fine house . . . . . . And miserable homes
   3. Children who have more money . . . . . . And less judgment.
   4. People with fancy clothes . . . . . . And filthy minds.
   5. Children who know more about TV programs . . . . . . An little if anything
about Jesus and the Bible.
6. People who worry more about the economy of our nation . . . . . Than the morality of her people.
7. A society that is more concerned with material accumulations . . . . . Than its spiritual well-being.
8. People more concerned with the price of a barrel of oil or a gallon of gas . . . . . Than the high cost of sin.
9. A world that is on its way to Hell . . . . . And shows no concern about it.

E. While many factors may result in creating problems within the home and Family, the one that we want to concentrate on in this period of study is “The Problem of Communication as a Threat to the Home.” In order that we might better communicate, three important definitions are in order.
1. HOME – “A spiritual institution (Relationship) created by God for man’s good and God’s glory.”
2. PROBLEM – “A source of tension, discord, perplexity, distress, or vexation.”
3. COMMUNICATION – A process by which information is exchanged between two or more individuals, through a common system of language, symbols, signs, or behavior.” Communication is deposition a part of yourself in another person.

F. Dr. David Knox, in his book, Marriage Happiness, A Behavioral Approach to Counseling, makes the observation that a lack of adaptive communication is a major problem in an unhappy marriage. And too, it is one of the more frequent problems encountered in marriage counseling. Note: I concur with the observation Dr. Knox has made. Problems lead to family discord, and family discord leads to family dissolution. We know it better as separation then divorce.
1. Divorce per se is not the problem. Something else is the problem (or problems) that cause the break-up. Divorce is merely the funeral noting the death of the marriage.
2. When divorce occurs, it is not because marriage as an institution has failed, but rather because one or both people within the marriage have failed as individuals.
3. Listen carefully to my next statement: When people in the marriage are both faithful Christians, there will never be a divorce because there will never be scriptural grounds for a divorce.
4. 1 Peter 5:8 – “Be sober! Be on the alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.”
   1. The devil wants to break down your home.
   2. The devil wants to break down the relationships in your home.
   3. The devil may work through your communication processes to do it.
      a. Too much can be said.
b. Too little can be said.
c. The wrong things can be said.
d. The right and need things may be left unsaid.
4. Anything that will hurt your communication within your family, the evil one is all for it. You must work harder against him.

G. Hear God’s Word . . . . Speech and communication are very important.
1. Matthew 12:37 – “For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”
2. James 3:2 – “For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a mature man who is also able to control his whole body.”

H. Ladies, I would strongly recommend that you consider studying a fine book authored by sister Sandra Humphrey entitled What Do You Communicate? Sister Humphrey’s book is a 13-lesson study for women. It is a practical study combining what the Bible ways while incorporating communication methods and how they relate to everyday life. The chapter titles are:
1. Do you Communicate?
2. Actions Speak Louder.
3. What Do You Communicate to Your Husband?
4. What Do You Communicate to Your Children About God?
5. What Do You Communicate to Your Children About Life?
6. What Do You Communicate to Fellow Christians?
7. What Do You Communicate to Your Neighbor?
8. What Do You Communicate to the Community?
9. What Do You Communicate to the Lost?
10. What Do You Communicate to the Stranger?
11. What Do You Communicate Through Your Work?
12. What Do You Communicate Through Your Old Age?
13. What Do You Communicate to God?

I. In our study, please think carefully and prayerfully about the importance of communication.

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT COMMUNICATION.
A. The word “communication” comes from the Latin word “communis.” Yes, this is the same word from which we get our English word “Communion.”
1. It describes two people who have something in common.
2. Mere talking is NOT communication.
3. Talking becomes communication only when the message “sent” by one person is “received” and responded to by another person.
4. The “sender” and “receiver” must share a common understanding of the message. For example, a wife can talk for hours to a husband watching
the Super Bowl on TV and probably never communicate a word . . . . Very few if any.

5. No wonder our Lord said four times, “Anyone who has ears should listen.” “He that has ears to hear, let him hear.”
   a. Matthew 11:15
   b. Mark 4:9
   c. Luke 8:8
   d. Luke 14:35

6. Hearing as a part of communication is further emphasized in each letter to the seven churches of Asia . . ““Anyone who has an ear should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.” (CSB) “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” (KJV)
   a. The Loveless Church at Ephesus . . . . . Revelation 2:7
   b. The Persecuted Church at Smyra . . . . . Revelation 2:11
   c. The Compromising Church at Pergamos . . . . . Revelation 2:17
   d. The Corrupt Church at Thyatira . . . . . Revelation 2:29
   e. The Dead Church at Sardis . . . . . Revelation 3:6
   f. The Faithful Church at Philadelphia . . . . . Revelation 3:13
   g. The Lukewarm Church at Laodicea . . . . . Revelation 3:22

B. Communication is of two major types.
   1. Verbal – refers to the use of language, words, speech, etc.
   2. Nonverbal – refers to the gestures, facial expressions, body language, etc.
      a. Nonverbal communication makes up about 70% of what we communicate to others.
      b. Psychologists claim that there are at least 10,000 nonverbal symbols which people use to communicate what they are feeling.
      c. Illustration: Bro. George Bailey – “That’s great!” Did not know it meant “I will beat you with sticks.”
      d. Illustration: Danny Cottrell – dollar bill (Pizza Parlor) – Staten Island, NY

C. The message sent is not always the message received . . The message received is not always the message sent.

D. Two people can speak the same language and yet not communicate.
   1. Abigail Van Buren, better known as Dear Abby, said, “The less you talk, the more you’re listened to.”
   2. While nothing is as easy as talking, perhaps nothing is as difficult as communicating.
   3. Dr. Karl Menninger has said, “This person (to whom I listen) is showing me his soul.”
   4. Many times self gets in the way of communicating. It is said that the word “I” is used 19 times more than any other word in the English language.
5. Sometimes we talk too much. Alistair Cooke once said, “too often our meanings are “drowned in an ocean of verbosity.”
6. James said we should be “Swift to hear and slow to speak.” James 1:19

SOME PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING COMMUNICATION IN THE HOME.
A. Every home has communication. It may be bad or good.
B. Good communication involves feelings. If you’re not in touch with your feelings, then you can’t communicate them.
C. In marriage, it is important for the partners to be able to talk about anything openly and without apology. When a couple can discuss their feelings freely, the air is often cleared and the two can be brought closer together by a better understanding of themselves and each other.
D. In the home **every family** member deserves to be heard and understood.
E. Be a good listener.
   1. James 1:19 – “My dearly loved brothers, understand this: everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger.”
   2. Proverbs 18:13 – “The one who gives an answer before he listens— this is foolishness and disgrace for him.”
F. Be honest and speak the truth . . . Always. Ephesians 4:15 – “. . . Speaking the truth in love . . .”
G. Avoid quarreling. Proverbs 17:28 – “Even a fool is considered wise when he keeps silent, discerning, when he seals his lips.”
H. Admit wrongs and seek forgiveness. Be able to say, “I’m sorry” . . . An dreally mean it.
I. Offer forgiveness and accept the offender’s apology.
J. Avoid nagging.
K. Listen to:
   1. What is said.
   2. The tone is which it is said.
   3. Body language that might contradict the spoken language.
L. Remember . . . If you want others to listen to you, listen to them.
M. Respond to the hidden message.
N. If communication appears to be a major problem, talk with someone who can help you develop good communication skills.
O. Take time to talk . . . Take time to sit down and talk. Trun off the TV and radio and tune in each other. You need to talk and you need to be understttod. So do the other family members.
   1. Husband works outside the home and wife works inside the home. When he gets home he doesn’t want to talk and she is ready for some mature communication. She has engaged in adolescent communication all day. She is ready for some adult communication.
2. Both work outside the home. They arrive home all talked out. Very little communication takes place. Easy for confrontation instead of communication.

3. At the end of the day allow each family member to tell about their day . . . and each family member listen to all other family members.

P. Unsatisfactorily sexual experiences in marriage probably have more to do with poor communication than anything else. Failure to pick up a spouse’s signals. Frustration results. May start looking somewhere for satisfaction.

Q. Satan will constantly try to disrupt good and effective communication in your home and family. He wants you to . . . .
   1. Argue
   2. Fuss and cuss
   3. Fight verbally and nonverbally
   4. Assign blame
   5. Shout at your family members
   6. Shift blame
   7. Engage in name calling
   8. Pout
   9. Accuse
   10. Refuse to discuss problems
   11. Etc.

R. Satan is willing to try anything to get you to fail as:
   1. A husband and father
   2. A wife and mother
   3. A son or daughter
   4. As a person
   5. As a Christian

**CONCLUSION:**

A. God wants you to have:
   1. A **good** marriage.
   2. A **happy** marriage.
   3. A **successful** marriage.
   4. And a **scriptural** marriage.

B. Take time to talk . . . . . . Take time to communicate about:
   1. What you expect from each other.
   2. Money matters in the home.
   3. Children, child-rearing, and discipline.
   4. Sexual needs and expectations.
   5. Likes and dislikes.
C. Good communication is one of the ingredients that will contribute to a good marriage. Poor communication will contribute to a problem marriage.
   1. Work at it.
   2. Pray about it.
   3. Be patient about it.
   4. Pass good communication skills on to your children.
D. Matthew 7:12 — “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” (21 powerful words)
E. God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation