

Communication in the Marriage

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I. Introduction.

- A. One cannot expect the wages of happiness in marriage without work.
- B. Communication demands work.
- C. Communication is the process of sharing information with another person in a way that the other person understands what you are saying.

II. Messages in communication.

- A. What you mean to say.
- B. What you actually say.
- C. What the other person hears.
- D. What the other person thinks he or she hears.
- E. What the other person says you said.
- F. What you think the other person says what you said.

III. We need to learn how to actively listen to overcome the communication barrier.

IV. Problems of not listening.

- A. Surface communication.
- B. Indirect communication.
- C. Lack of communication.

V. Levels of communication.

VI. Communication is the meeting of meaning.

VII. Communication involves risk.

VIII. Communication requires truth and love. (Ephesians 4:15)

IX. We are to speak simply and clearly. (Matthew 5, 2 Corinthians 1)

X. Things never to do in communication.

- A. Use sarcasm.
- B. Criticize or correct publicly. Boost each other up in public.

XI. Do not overlook the little things.

A. Solve issues before bed.

B. Little things build up and cause big problems.

Application questions:

1. Why is communication difficult?

2. What are some ways that you have hurt your spouse and your spouse has hurt you? How can communication heal?

3. What can you do to improve communication in your relationship with your spouse? Explain.
