

**HOW TO HAVE A GROWING MARRIAGE, PART 3**  
**EPHESIANS 5:21-33**  
**Ephesians "What I Do" part 8**

**HOW DOES THE PRINCIPLE OF SACRIFICE AND RESPECT WORK IN 6  
IMPORTANT AREAS OF ANY MARRIAGE?**

*"Reliable communication permits progress."* Prov. 13:17 (LB)

*"For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks."* Matt. 12:34

**MAKING CONTACT – COMMUNICATION**

**Respect** means being careful with my words.

**Sacrifice** means being open and available in my communication

*"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs..."* Ephesians 4:29

**4 things to remember about communication**

- All relationships are fueled by communication
- The foundation of communication is trust
- Communication is always "from the heart."
- Communication that makes a difference is positively honest.

**MAKING DECISIONS – PROBLEM SOLVING AND DECISION MAKING** 1 Cor. 5:3 (TLB)

The model for making decisions in a marriage is the model of Christ and His church.

What does **the principle of unselfishness** do to our process of decision making?

- It causes a husband to consider his wife's needs before pressing to achieve their wants.
- It causes a wife to look for the value in her husband's opinion before looking for the flaw. 1 Cor. 13:4-5 (TLB)

**MAKING LOVE – SEX AND ROMANCE** 1 Cor. 7:3-5 (NCV)

*Marriage is a decision to specialize on one person – for life!*

- *Refuse outside intimacy (Prov. 5:15)*
- *Rejoice in marital intimacy (Prov. 5:19, 1 Cor. 7)*  
*Satisfaction:* I make the decision to be faithful to my spouse alone. I realize that sexual satisfaction is in one place in my life. One person.  
*Captivation:* Keeping this "air of mystery" in a relationship.

***Why is sex so important, anyway?*** Prov. 5:15&19 (TLB)

*Because it reaches down into the depths of our SOUL*

- *Respect ... my husband's God-given need*
- *Sacrifice... don't demand and never demean ... delight*

**MAKING THE BED – ROLES, WHO DOES WHAT**

*Ask yourself three questions...*

- *Is my home a place of indulgence, or service ?*

- *Is my home a place of law, or of love ?*
- *Is my home a place of fighting for my rights, or of giving to others' needs?*

"My brothers and sisters, God called you to be free, but do not use your freedom as an excuse to do what pleases your sinful self. Serve each other with love. The whole law is made complete in this one command. 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' If you go on hurting each other and tearing each other apart, be careful or you will completely destroy each other." Gal. 5:13-15 (NCV)

We serve our way into significance.

### **MAKING MISTAKES**

3 things you have to live with:

- My spouse has "character flaws"  
My response: **is to accept their flaws.** Because I have them too.
- My spouse makes mistakes... "Major mistakes!"  
My response: Have compassion and show understanding.
- My spouse sins.  
My response: Forgive their sins... "*Be kind and loving to each other, and forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ.*" Eph. 4:32 (NCV)

"Dear brothers, if a Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help him back onto the right path, remembering that next time it might be one of you who is in the wrong." Gal. 6:1 (TLB)

### **MAKING PEACE – HANDLING OUR DIFFERENCES**

- God clearly wants men and women to be different!
- Our differences can become our greatest enemy... or our greatest strength.
- Unselfish love helps us to begin to say...  
"We can be together what we could never be alone."

"We're both right."

"We need each other to see the complete picture."

My marriage is more than a place for my needs to be met.

My marriage can become a picture of the love of Christ

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." Rom. 15:5-7 (NIV)

### **HOMEWORK**

Men: Put down the NEWSPAPER the week.

Women: Pick up a NEW NIGHTGOWN this week.