

### COMMUNICATING GRACE

*"So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."*  
Ephesians 5:33 (NLT)

❖ God made us different when it comes to COMMUNICATING.

*"Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers."*  
1 Peter 3:7 (NIV)

*"However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."*  
Ephesians 5:33 (NIV)

1. The goal of marital communication is INTIMACY & ONENESS.

*"The two shall be come one flesh..."*

2. There are FIVE LEVELS of Communication.

- CLICHE Communication – Other's call this the "grunt" level or "small talk"
- FACT Communication – Some call this your 'Thoughts' communication
- OPINION Communication – This relates to your beliefs and convictions
- EMOTIONAL Communication – Some call it your "Hopes and Dreams"
- TRANSPARENT Communication – We will call this "Trust" communication

3. Loving Communication is spelled T.I.M.E.

- Be willing to T.ALK about ANYTHING.
- Make sure and LISTEN, don't I.NTERRUPT.
- You can't READ each others M.IND.
- Prioritize sharing together E.VERY DAY.

❖ The No. 1 Communicating Barrier is related to MONEY.

*"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need*

*them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."* Matthew 6:31-34 (NIV)

1. Money related issues are usually the TOP STRESSERS in any MARRIAGE.

*"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'"* Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

2. In every family there tends to be a SPENDER and a SAVER.

*"...Male and Female He created them..."*

3. God is clear in His WORD about money, don't let money become your GOD.

*"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."* 1 Timothy 6:10 (NIV)

❖ A Second Major Stress area is Communicating about SEX.

*"The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband... Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."* 1 Corinthians 7:3, 5 (NIV)

1. God's intent was for sex to be HOLY and ENJOYABLE.

*"I am my lover's, the one he desires. Come, my love, let us go out into the fields and spend the night among the wildflowers... and there I will give you my love."* Song of Solomon 7:10-12

2. We have to understand that Men and Women RELATE to SEX differently.

*"...and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one."* Mark 10:8 (NIV)

3. We need to set up BARRIERS and BOUNDARIES to protect our INTIMACY.

*"But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."* Matthew 5:28 (NIV)

❖ Our Challenge: To Celebrate our DIFFERENCES and choose SACRIFICIAL LOVE.