

“The Ways of Love in Marriage”

(“On to Maturity” series)

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Tampa Bay Church

by

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1. Introduction

- a. The need (act out miscommunication between spouses)
 - b. Outline this morning:
 - i. The ways of love in marriage involve at least these three things:
 1. Good communication
 2. Loving interactions
 3. Resolving conflicts
2. The first “way of love in marriage” is to “have good communication”
- a. Proverbs 12:18 = “Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”
 - i. Words are powerful!
 1. They have the power to hurt or to heal.
 - a. Be extremely careful with them.
 - b. Proverbs 15:1 = “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”
 - i. When one is angry, the other must not respond with anger or it will escalate.
 1. Lisa and I have this rule: only one of us can be angry at a time. The other one needs to be the calming influence and help the first one.
 - a. (At least that’s what we try to do.)
 - c. Proverbs 15:4 = “The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.”
 - i. Q: What are some of the crushing consequences of deceit in marriage?
 - d. Proverbs 16:24 = “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”
 - i. The power of positive words...
 - e. Proverbs 18:2 = “A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.”
 - i. Must really listen to each other.
 - f. Proverbs 21:19 = “Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.”
 - i. Nagging is counter-productive.
 1. The solution is to sit down and discuss it together.
 - a. Maybe even agree to “a date of completion”.

1. Lots of Proverbs on this.
 2. Ephesians 4:26-27 = "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, **27**and do not give the devil a foothold."
 - a. When angry, learn not to sin.
 - i. Avoid overstatements ("always"; "never")
 - ii. Avoid putdowns (w/ kids too)
 - iii. Avoid physical violence at all cost
 1. (walk away and cool down)
 3. The Dad's demeanor and tone of voice sets the whole tone of the household. (Positive or negative?)
 - b. Ephesians 5:33 = "However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."
 - i. Men need respect.
 1. Tip for women: think of three things you love about your husband and tell him before you go to bed tonight.
 - a. Try coming up with three new things a day in your Q.T. and you'll be amazed at what an awesome husband you suddenly have!
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 13:7 = "It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."
 1. Protect his reputation (even when seeking advice)
 2. Always trust his heart and intentions
 - a. Believe the best about him.
 3. Always persevere.
 - a. Don't give up on each other.
 - i. Discuss when and how to apply boundaries...
4. The final "way of love in marriage" we want to talk about is "resolve every conflict every time"
 - a. Matthew 5:23-24 = "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, **24**leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."
 - i. Q: How important is conflict resolution to God?
 1. 1 Peter 3:7 = "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."
 - b. Conflict Resolution Tips:
 - i. One: Hear each other out

1. **Proverbs 18:13** = *“He who answers before listening— that is his folly and his shame.”*
 - a. Genuine listening is hard! (Takes humility!)
 - b. Try to walk in each other’s shoes...
 - ii. Two: Pinpoint the conflict (Refer: Proverbs 20:5)
 1. Be sure you’re discussing the real issue. Ask questions to find out why the person is really upset – it may be something that happened earlier that day, or with another person at work, etc.
 2. If the issue is between the two of you, deal with the specific issue at hand. Don’t make a mountain out of a mole-hill. Deal with the conflict without making sweeping statements about the relationship:
 - a. Bad example (men) : *“You’re just so nit-picky all the time.”*
 - i. Good example (men): *“It makes me feel like you’re down on me when you point out what I haven’t done right when I walk through the door.”*
 - b. Bad example (women): *“I’m just not happy with you!”*
 - i. Good example (women): *“It made me feel unimportant when you didn’t come home in time for dinner.”*
 - iii. Three: Look for your end (Proverbs 18:17)
 1. Be humble.
 2. Take responsibility where you can
 - iv. Four: Sincerely repent (Proverbs 28:13)
 1. (be convicted, apologize, change)
 - v. Five: Forgive and forget
 1. 1 Corinthians 13:5 = *“it [love] keeps no record of wrongs”*.
 - vi. Six: Get help when needed
 1. Proverbs 15:22 = *“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.”*
5. Close
- a. Married disciples: if we’re going to move on to maturity, we’ve got to learn *“the ways of love in marriage”* and put them into practice:
 - i. Have good communication
 - ii. Have loving interactions
 - iii. Resolve every conflict every time.