

IV. God's Design For Communication

A Biblical & Theological View of Communication for the Christian Family

Is this communication in your home?



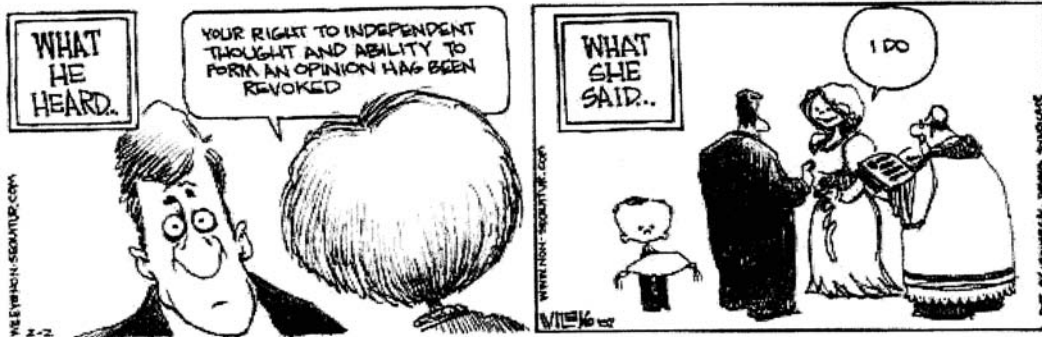
Or maybe this?



Or this?



Or lastly, this?



Communication in Marriage

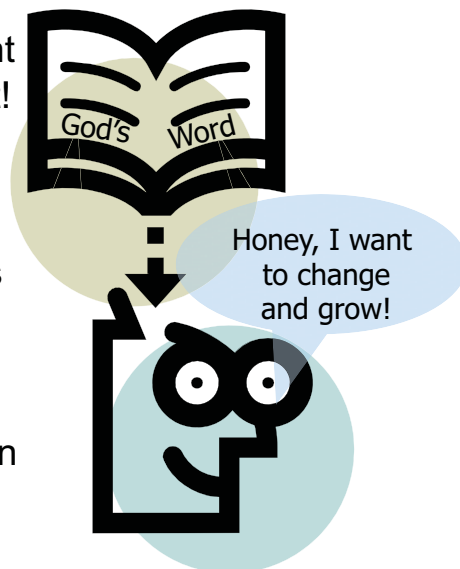
1. Good communication in the Christian marriage does not happen automatically.
 - ⇒ Neither is the Christian marriage immune from problems. Why?
 - ⇒ Because you and your spouse are sinners.
 - ⇒ Because you and your spouse are finite with sinful hearts.
 - ⇒ Because your heart has various cravings and desires that conflict.
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Communication in Marriage

2. Good marriages and loving relationships can be built by couples who are committed to being God's kind of husband and wife.
 - If you take to heart biblical principles of communication, your marriage can begin improving today.
 - But you must be sincere in your desire to do things God's way. This means He defines what is best for your marriage, not you! Turn to Ephesians 4:25-32.
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Communication in Marriage

- The preceding context is important to properly understanding our text!
- Ephesians 4:17-24
- You have certain lifestyle patterns that must be put off and new lifestyle patterns to be put on.
- Permanent change in the Christian life is always two-factored.



Four Rules of Communication

I. Be Honest! (Ephesians 4:25)

A. Speak!

1. Greek imperative— “you speak up” (lalei^{τε})
2. People cannot read your mind.
3. Clamming up is out for the Christian!

C. Speak truth!

1. Speaking the truth is a verb that involves continuous action (present tense).
 - ✓ It is to be your new lifestyle in your marriage.
 - ✓ David says you must speak the truth from a heart of integrity (Psalm 15:2). Not deceptively, or with disguised, hidden or double meanings.
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Four Rules of Communication

2. Examples of the way you may be dishonest in your speech:
 - a. Outright dishonesty—a deliberate lie, falsification or denial of truth.
 - b. Incongruencies—where your speech is inconsistent with your “halo” data (non-verbal behavior)
 - c. Disguised communication—innuendos, insinuations, implied accusations
 4. Honest is more than not lying—it is being open and honest with the truth.
 5. It is an attitude of the heart.
 6. “Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices.” (Colossians 3:9)
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Four Rules of Communication

- c. **Speak the truth lovingly!** (cf. 4:15)
 - 1. Sometimes you can be brutal with the truth.
 - a. If you speak the truth in spite and anger.
 - b. If you speak without forethought concerning the person you are speaking to or about.
 - 3. Christians are to speak the truth with the other person's best interest in mind.
 - 4. "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each other." (Colossians 4:6)
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Four Rules of Communication

II. Keep current! (4:26, 27)

- A. Be angry and sin not!
 - ✓ All anger is not sin, self-centered anger is.
- c. Failure to solve each day's problems that day means...
 - 1. Guilty of sin!
 - 2. Opening the way to resentment and bitterness.
 - 3. Distorting subsequent problems.
 - 4. Endangering your physical relationship.
- E. Matthew 6:34



Four Rules of Communication

III. Attack the problem, not the person! (4:29-30)

A. Unwholesome words

- ✓ Zero in on the person and their character
 - ✓ Tear down and demolish
 - ✓ “You always...”, “you never...”, “you turkey,” “you idiot,” “you dummy,” “stupid,” “dumb bell”
 - ✓ We tend to label only *curse words* as unwholesome—a very narrow definition.
 - ✓ God’s definition is much broader.
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Four Rules of Communication

B. Edifying words

- ✓ These are the words that focus on the problem.
 - ✓ They are selected in order to make it easy for two people to find a solution. They are solution-oriented words—full of graciousness.
 - ✓ They always have your partner’s welfare first and foremost on your mind.
 - ✓ “I disagree with what you have done, but I am open to hear your side of the story.”
 - ✓ “I want to find a solution to our problem that will be best for you and our home.”
 - ✓ “I want to work through this with you so that Jesus Christ is honored in our marriage.”
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Four Rules of Communication

IV. Act, don't react! (4:31-32)

A. Reactions to problems (v. 31)

1. **Bitterness**—perpetual animosity that leads to harsh and unloving opinions about others.
 2. **Wrath**—outbursts of passionate rage
 3. **Anger**—a subtle deep-flowing anger
 4. **Clamor**—outcry and shouting
 5. **Slander**—speaking evil of another that often comes from some settled indignation.
 6. **Malice**—a general wishing of ill-will toward another person, the root of all above vices.
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Four Rules of Communication

B. Actions (v. 32)

1. **Be kind**—useful, worthy, good, benevolent toward your spouse.
2. **Tender-hearted**—lit. “having healthy bowels,” in the Bible they are the seat of emotions and intention, therefore it means being compassionate with your partner.
3. **Forgiving**—to exercise grace in releasing the offense of your spouse. This includes the willingness from the heart (Mk. 11:25) and the verbal granting of forgiveness when repentance has taken place (Lk. 17:3-4).



A. The Biblical View

6. Sexual relationships should be regular and continuous.

- ❑ 1 Corinthians 7:5
- ❑ Four guidelines in not having sex:
 - a. Mutual agreement
 - b. Agreed upon time
 - c. Fasting and prayer
 - d. Terminate and start again

