

COUPLE COMMUNICATION – PEACEMAKERS

Introduction – The principles of couple communication I presented the preceding two weeks are applicable in every area of our lives. The rule of reciprocity is universally true.

Romans 12:18

A. We should start at home and work by being an active listener.

James 1:19-21

1. Be quick to clarify what others mean.
2. Recognize that others may not verbally express their true intentions in a clear way.
3. Do not jump to conclusions before making sure we know the reasons why they believe a specific thing.
4. The problem may be our selective listening.
5. If we feel angry about what another person says then we are only making a possible interpretation of it.
6. The greatest obstacle to people hearing one another may be what James calls moral filth.
7. Summarize what you are hearing until the other person agrees that you got it.

B. We must recover the sacred nature of words in our daily conversations.

James 3:2-12

1. The control of our personal speech may be our greatest moral challenge.
2. We must be introspective and cleanse our attitudes before we speak a word.
3. The goal of our communication is not to convince others of their faults, but to reveal our perspective in a way it can be heard.
4. We must seek common ground and mutual understanding before we proceed to conflict resolution.

C. It takes godly wisdom to resolve differences among people.

James 3:13-18

1. Worldly wisdom is motivated by selfish ambition and envy and always results in chaos and evil behaviors and attitudes.
2. When we talk it should not be to correct, humiliate, or debate others because this leads to defensive and antagonistic responses.
3. Heavenly wisdom is characterized by humility, pure intentions, being considerate, full of mercy, impartial, and peace-loving.
4. You must create a peaceful environment for people to open up about their real wants.
5. Once each person feels heard by the other then you can proceed to a resolution of the issue.

Conclusion – We must be fully committed to becoming peacemakers in every avenue of our lives. We need to grow in godly wisdom to be effective peacekeepers.

James 1:5