

A MARRAGE WITHOUT REGRETS

PROGRAM 19 (#910149)

WEEK 4 (910332)

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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: A Marriage Without Regrets

TITLE: Program 19 – Ministry Of Communication

THURSDAY

OPEN

In Proverbs, chapter 17, verse 17. “But there’s a friend that loves at all times. And a brother is born for adversity.” So in this communication where you have to be careful that you don’t judge them, you don’t criticize them, you don’t give advice too quick and you don’t figure that person out and put them in a slot and say, “You always are this way. You will never change.” “That’s always your MO, your method of operation.” Look, stop and just know this. If a brother is born for the day of adversity, then in this marriage situation, you need to be the friend. And you need to sit back and you need to listen and you need to keep the communication open wide.

PART ONE

As I’ve said before, marriage is a ministry. It’s a ministry to God and it’s a ministry to your mate, and it’s a ministry to your children. And it’s a ministry to the world. Why? Because the family is the bedrock of a society.

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The Bible says in Ephesians 4 that, “Every family in heaven and on earth is named after God.” In other words, He sets the pattern. And if we’re going to be strong and if we’re going to be healthy people and if we’re going to be a nation that is mightily blessed of God, then we’re going to have to have a strong foundation. Now, you just need to remember two things whenever you communicate. And this is absolutely essential. Whenever you communicate with anyone, whenever you communicate with them, you’re ministering to them. You’re either going to minister life or you’re going to minister death because, “Life and death are in the power of the tongue.” We saw that before. The tongue is a small member. But it can be set on fire of hell and it can change the course of a person’s life. And many times people will sit down and say when you get them to open up, when you get them to talk, they will say, “This happened to me and since that time, I believe that. That devastated me, what that person said.” Or another person will come along and they will say, “You know, I always thought of myself as totally and absolutely incapable, but then someone saw a glimmer of success in me. They saw potential in me and it changed my life.” So we need to know and remember that, “Life and death are in the power of the tongue.” So what do I remember? I remember those two needs that every single person has the need to be loved, the security that comes with knowing that you are loved unconditionally. And no matter what you do, no matter what you say that you will always have my love. The second thing they need to have is that sense of worth, that sense of significance. So whenever I communicate what I need to remember is if I’m going to minister to that person in a way that is pleasing to God and not a destructive way, if I’m going to be a person that is going to minister life, I’m never going to say anything that is going to cause them to doubt the fact that they are a person who is loved and a person who has worth, a person who has significance. Now when you’re communicating with one another or whenever two people come together into a marriage, you have to remember that you’re not just communicating on the basis of the

words that you're saying to one another. Remember we saw that communication, 55 % of it is body language. Then we saw the emotional aspect and the intuitive aspect of it. And we saw that really words, that communication, that the percentage of everything that goes into communication, words only hold a 7 to 8% of all that's going on in that communication. So when two people come together, the more that you can know about one another, the better you can understand one another and why you talk the way you talk, why you respond the way you respond, why you sit the way you sit, why you bristle or why you just smile. Because when two people come together, there are certain factors that are coming together. The first thing is their consequential history. Now by their consequential history, I mean this: What is their background? What is their realm of knowledge? What is their realm of wisdom? Because wisdom is the ability to take knowledge and put it into practical ways as to how you are to live, how you are to deal with people. And some people have wisdom and some people don't. And it depends on the way that they're brought up and the way that they're taught to respond and the way that they're taught to think. So you see the consequential history is so important. You see that their past experiences. What happened to them in childhood? Were they nurtured? Were they cared for? Were they admired? Were they loved? I'll never forget when the fracas over the election in the year 2001 was over and we finally knew that Bush was going to be the President of the United States of America. Well, then television began to air on several different channels this story of the Bush family. I'm sure if you saw it, you were sitting there absolutely drooling because you thought, "Oh, how wonderful it would have been to be raised this way. How wonderful it would have been to be part of a family like this." Why? Because the children had a healthy self-image. The children were nurtured. The children were loved. The children in the Bush family were paid attention to. Our former President, George Bush, Sr., would sit down and write his children and his grandchildren letters. Share

his wisdom with them. Share his understanding and let them know how much he appreciated them. The children were always taught to consider others. They were always taught that they had a responsibility toward society. Well this is a healthy background. And you see a person that has a healthy self-image and that can take all the flack that the media wants to give him. And not respond or retort in a wrong way. And so you see a healthy person. But what if a person has been demeaned all their life? What if they haven't been loved? What if they have no sense of self-worth, no sense of security, the security of love? Then when they come into that conversation, what you say, or the words that you use, or the body language can trigger bad memories and make them withdraw, make them go into a shell, cause them to drop their head, cause them to get angry because all of a sudden they remember something from their past. I remember a young man that came up to me and said to me, "You know, I have been so angry at you because when you shared your testimony, you did to your sons what my mother did to me." And he said, "But my anger went away today, because I saw your sorrow. I saw your weeping. I saw your tears." Well, he was just projecting on me what his mother had done to him. And that's what you have to consider when you come into a marriage. And therefore, Precious One, it is so important for you to get to know your mate and to get to know them if you're single, get to know them. Talk, talk, talk, talk, talk before you ever get married and don't talk superficial. And don't let your emotions get in the way and don't let your passions get in the way and stop you from knowing one another and understanding one another. Take walks and say, "Tell me about your childhood. Tell me, what is the thing that you remember the most that gave you pleasure?" Then ask them, "What is the thing that you remember the most that gave you pain? What is the thing that is the hardest for you to deal with? Tell me how you would describe yourself to someone else." So that you get to know this person and you know it would be so healthy for both of you to sit down and write down things that you

remember from the past that cause you anguish, things that you remember from the past that make you feel like less than you should be: memories that haunt you, thoughts that haunt you. Words that come back and flash in your mind and kind of shrivel up your soul. It would be good to put those things down, to put those things down. And then what you would do is you would begin to go through the Scriptures and find out what does God say about you, instead of what do others says about you. Well, when you communicate you have to remember that that person has a past. That person has a self-image. That person has a sense of worth or worthlessness. And this is going to affect your relationship. If you're married to a woman that was neglected by her father or demeaned by her father or ignored by her father, you're probably going to have some adjustments, because her relationship to her father can be projected on her relationship to you. So self-image is part of that consequential history. Also is a sense of humor. You know my daddy used to say to me, "I'm telling you, Kay, you're going to have a sense of humor if it kills me; you're going to learn to laugh at yourself. You're going to learn to take it." And you know, when you don't have a sense of humor, when you can't laugh at yourself, when you can't look at yourself and say, "Oh well, I blew it." Or you know what they always say about me is, "You can dress her up but you can't take her out." And my first husband said that about me, and others. You can dress me up, but you can't take me out. Why? I'm going to goof somewhere along the line. I was just on a train in England and I went to the restroom and I couldn't find where do you open the door. And there was a latch and so I'm pulling the latch. And finally a woman calls me over and she says, "That's not the way you get in there. You push the button up here that says 'Open'." Well I thought the button was either going to flash that it was open or closed, and that it was available or not available. But you use a handle to open the door. Well I got in there and when I came out, I found out that I had stopped the train because I was pulling the latch that stops the train. You can dress me up but you can't take

me out. Now I could have been devastated by that. I could have been demoralized by that. I could have just shriveled up and said, “Oh, I can never do anything right.” But because I’ve learned to have a sense of humor, because I can look at myself and laugh at myself, then I could handle the situation. And because I’ve been secure. I’ve been brought up in an atmosphere of love by my parents. And I have no doubt that my parent’s love me and I have no doubt that God loves me, and so that gives me a sense of security. Well, you also see that your current state is so important. Now what do I mean by the current state? Well, we’re going to talk about it when I come back in just a minute.

PART TWO

Remember every time you communicate there’s more in that communication than just the words that are being said. Sometimes when we’re communicating, there’s a current emotional state that’s going on. There’s a current mood that we are in. Well, all of that is going to affect the communication. And then, on top of that, what is the state of that person’s heart? I mean, what is their heart like? Now we’re going to talk about that, because it’s so important for you to understand what’s going on in the heart, because what’s going on in the heart comes out of the mouth. But what I want you to see is all these are factors that go into every conversation. And they are exacerbated when you are in a situation where you can see each other face-to-face. Now, what I want to do is I want to talk to you about hindrances to openness in communication. And what I want to do is I want to give you four hindrances that shut us down in our communication so that you can learn these skills and so that you can put them to practice in your marriage. So, number one: there is the fear of being judged. There is the fear of being criticized. There is the fear of not being acceptable to that other person. Now remember, every one of us needs a sense of love, unconditional love. Every one of us needs a sense of worth, a sense of significance. And so

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if, in the communication, I think that you're going to judge me and I don't have a healthy self-image, I'm not going to let you get that far in this communication. If I think that you're going to put me down or if I think that what I share with you is not going to be acceptable, then I'm not going to share it. And you know we all need a friend. We all need someone that we can just say anything to and know that when we say it to them that no matter what we say, we will still be accepted. But just know this, there's not going to be an openness between you and your mate if there is a fear of being rejected. So they have to be able to tell you anything and everything and know that that's not going to alter your relationship with them or it's not going to put you down. All right, now the second thing that's going to hinder an openness in communication is giving advice too quick, giving advice too pat. In other words, your husband starts sharing with you, "I had such a problem at the office today. I was talking to George and when I started sharing with him about this problem and my concern about..." "Oh honey, it's just the way that you share it." And so before he has even explained it, you've got the answer or you're pointing to something about him or his weakness or his fault. I can tell you this. If you do this, he is not going to open up to you. So you need to remember, Precious One, don't give advice too pat, too quick. Hear your partner out and know this that many times they don't want advice. All they want to do is share. All they want to do is unload, but they don't want your suggestion. They just want you to listen. Now remember, good communications involves listening. Good communication involves watching, watching that body language, watching that countenance. And good communication involves talking and sharing. But sometimes communication ends with just you listening and just you watching and then praying and God saying, "Don't say a thing." I was talking to a friend on the phone and she was so upset. And all I did was listen and listen and listen. And then when I got through I knew, although I knew she was wrong, although I knew that she was not functioning

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biblically, although I knew what she was doing was against the Word of God, I knew at that point I couldn't say a thing because that's not what she needed and she wasn't ready to hear it. And all I said is, "Would you like to get on a plane and come and stay with me for a few days? And just let me love on you and listen and let's talk." Then was not the time to give advice. All right the third thing is: many times a person will not open up because you figured him out or you figured her out, you've diagnosed the case, you've diagnosed the situation and so you're not going to listen. You've already got your mind formed. You've already got your thoughts. You've already got that person figured out and so they're not going to open up. All right, now, let me go back and just share with you a few scriptures from Proverbs that are going to help you understand these things. First of all, in Proverbs, chapter 17, verse 17. "But there's a friend that loves at all times. And a brother is born for adversity." So in this communication where you have to be careful that you don't judge them, you don't criticize them, you don't give advice to quick and you don't figure that person out and put them in a slot and say, "You always are this way. You will never change." "That's always your MO, your method of operation." Look, stop and just know this. If a brother is born for the day of adversity, then in this marriage situation, you need to be the friend. And you need to sit back and you need to listen and you need to keep the communication open wide. In Proverbs, chapter 18, verse 13, it says this. "He who gives an answer before he hears it, it is folly and a shame to him." So restrain yourself in your communication. I mean, don't give a pat answer back. Don't sit there and diagnose the situation without hearing what that person is really saying, by listening to it in a fresh way, you know I hate being slotted. I hate people that say to me, "Oh, you're always that way. Oh, you'll never change. Oh, that's the way you are." Give me a chance to grow. Give me a chance to mature. Give me a chance to change. And so this is what he's saying here, "Don't give them an answer." Now look at Proverbs, chapter 15, verse 2, it says, "The tongue of

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the wise makes knowledge acceptable, but the mouth of fools spouts folly.” So when you get ready to talk to a person, when you’re listening to a person, don’t just spout off, but stop and think. And make whatever advice you have for that person acceptable. Couch it in careful words. And don’t hit the person’s personality. Don’t hit the person’s failures. Deal with the situation instead of the personality, instead of the character. Don’t sit as a judge. I want to give you Proverbs 29, verse 20 and I want to tell you what I’ve done is I’ve gone through the book of Proverbs and I’ve colored green everything that has to do with the tongue. Why? Because in the tongue is the power of life and death and green is the color of life for me. And in Proverbs 29:20, it says, “Do you see a man who’s hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.” Study before you answer. Listen. I mean listen carefully. And then answer wisely. Well, the last thing I want you to see is, the hindrance to openness is when you won’t open up, when you won’t share, when you just sit there silently, when you’re not going to say a word. When you’re not going to share that this is what’s on my heart or this is what I’m dealing with, or this is the problem. Then you know what? Silence shuts down communication. The unwillingness to be vulnerable in communication will cause your marriage to stagnate. It will cause your marriage to come to a screeching halt in regard to the friendship that you could have with one another and the sharing and the understanding. Well, I have more to share with you. But just remember this, marriage is a ministry and you minister in the way you communicate.