

A MARRAGE WITHOUT REGRETS

PROGRAM 24 (#910154)

WEEK 5 (910333)

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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 24 – Nevers In Communication

THURSDAY

OPEN

If a person is coming against you, if they're letting you have it, listen don't whip out the sword of your tongue and just lash at them and cut them back down. Never counterattack. You're going to be more the man. You're going to be more the woman if you just let them pull it out and you don't counterattack. If you just stop, if you listen. Watch their body language. Remember, a lot of communication is listening.

PART ONE

You know that people have said things to you that have absolutely devastated you. You've gone about your day, but you've felt like there was dark cloud over you and you stop and think, "Why am I feeling so bad." And, I do this. I don't know if you do it. But then, I go back through my day and then I remember, oh it's what someone said. Or it's what I said to another person. And I feel like I've failed. I feel like I didn't say the right

thing. And I thought, “How could you be so stupid, Kay?” I want to be wise. I want to use my tongue in such a way that it will minister to other people. And this is so important, especially in marriage because the person that you’re living with is the person that you’re going to spend the future with. And you can destroy that person with your tongue or you can build that person with your tongue. You know the home ought to be a place where we can come and be treated in a way that is going to encourage us and give us hope, a place, a shelter from the world where kind words and thoughtful words and loving words and fun words come out and where we enjoy one another and where we feel good with each other and good about each other. So what I want to do is I want to give a list of things today, some “nevers” in communication. Okay. And the first thing that I want you to see is number one: Never say always. Never say, “You will never change. It will always be this way.” Because the minute that you do that, you’re saying there’s no hope. Now you can say, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” That’s a good never. But, “I will always be with you or I will always love you.” But you don’t use always and never to look at someone’s character and to clamp them there in time and say that’s the way you’re going to be for the rest of your life. You know there’s a wonderful verse in 2 Corinthians. And it’s 2 Corinthians, chapter 5, verse 19. And it says, “Namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.” In other words, God doesn’t say, “Okay, that’s what you were and you’re never going to change.” He doesn’t remind us of our trespasses. He always gives to us a word of reconciliation, a word of hope, a word that brings us back into that wonderful union. The other thing that I want you to remember is Proverbs 19:11, that it is our glory to pass over a transgression. In other words, you don’t need to keep pointing out everyone’s faults to them or everyone’s shortcoming. It’s good for you just to overlook that and to give God time to work in your mate’s life or in your family’s life or in a friend’s

life. The second thing that I want you to see and it's never accuse a person of a feeling or an attitude. Why? Because you really don't know what they're feeling. You really don't know what their attitude is. You say, "Yes I do. I can tell by their body language. I can tell by their countenance. I just know them." Listen, if you will learn not to judge a feeling and not to judge an attitude, even though you think that you know them, even though their body language may be telling you something, you'll get farther in your conversation with that person. You know, I think, what do you know about what I'm feeling? What do you know about what I'm thinking if I haven't told you? So please don't read that in. Now what you can do is you can say, "Let me just ask you a question. Is there bitterness that you're feeling that you have to deal with or does this make you angry or does this cause you to be depressed?" You know you can ask questions like that, but if they say no, then you need to let it go. And then just ask them, "Well, how are you feeling? Because I really want to know and because it really matters to me." And by the way, it's Proverbs 13:10 and it says, "Through presumption comes nothing but strife, but with those who receive counsel there is wisdom." So when you presume, it's going to cause strife. All right, the third thing is: never disallow someone's feelings. Don't say to them, "You shouldn't feel like that or you shouldn't be crying." Or you shouldn't say, "Well, I can't believe you feel like that or that you thought that. That is dumb. That is stupid." Don't disallow someone's feelings. I mean feelings are not necessarily a result of correct thinking or a correct analysis on a situation. But a feeling is a feeling. Anger is an emotion. The Bible says, "Be angry and sin not." So anger is an emotion. You can't stop an emotion, but you can control an emotion. So never disallow someone's feelings. You know in James, chapter 1, in verses 19 and 20, there's some very good words there for us. And this is what it says. "This you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, [and] slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God." So

don't disallow a person's feelings. And if you're feeling angry, then you bring in that emotion. And you make sure that you stop and that you are slow to speak. You don't say anything you listen and you hear what's going on and then you ask God for the wisdom of how to speak and how to deal with that person. Now the fourth thing that I want you to see is this. You're never to attack a person's character. You're never to attack a person's capabilities. And never attack a person's intelligence. You know, you can look at someone and you can say, "You are stupid," and immediately they might believe that lie. And you say, "But they are stupid." All right, let me ask you a question. If they are stupid, is it going to help them to know that they're stupid? Would you like someone to say that to you? You know, if we would go back to that so-called golden rule, and that golden rule is, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." In other words, we're to love one another as we love ourselves. And therefore, when we say something to someone or we do something to someone we need to stop and think, "Hey, how would this affect me if someone was saying this to me or if they were carrying on with this kind of an attitude or this tone of voice?" So you need to stop and think and consider the other person. You know, people used to say to me sometimes when I was counseling they would say to me, "I wish you could see your face." And I would say, well what's wrong with my face? "I just wish you could see the look on your face." So you know what I did? I put a mirror up behind the chair where the people sat that I counseled. Now this is in my early days of ministry. And I saw my face the way my face looked wasn't right. And so then I began to ask God, "God, fill me with Your Spirit. Love these people through my eyes. Love them through my speech." And He softened me so much. Now He still has work to do. And I want Him to do it. But I want my words to and I want my countenance and everything to be edifying to a person, not to be destructive. So, don't ever say to a person, don't ever get something and say that you're unchangeable. In other words, if they're not telling the truth, don't say,

“You’re a liar. You’re a liar.” Don’t put that on their character. Rather say to them, “You know, that’s not true. You have believed a lie or what you’re saying is a lie. It’s not true.” But you don’t say, “You are a liar.” Don’t attack their character. As I say all this, I just want you to know that people live up to the image that we have of them. And so many times when you’re talking to a person it’s good to say to that person, “Look, let me just tell you that what I saw is not in keeping with who I know that you are. I know that you are so much wiser than that or I know that you are so much kinder than that or you know what, that just doesn’t give a right impression of you because I know you and I know that you are so much wiser and smarter than the impression that you are giving.” When you do that, what you’re saying is, “here is where I see you and here is where you’re living. And this is not you. And you need to let others see what you can be.” So when you do this, always give hope. You know there was a class at a school that all of a sudden their grades shot up. I mean, they shot up so high that the school wondered, “Are they cheating? What are they doing?” They watched them very carefully. They weren’t cheating. Their grades had just miraculously improved. And they couldn’t figure out why their grades had improved. Why had they improved? Somehow, in some fluke, I think it’s a divine fluke, they put down their locker numbers instead of their IQ’s and their locker numbers were higher than their IQ. But all of a sudden the kids saw, “Hey I’m smarter than I think I am.” They arose to that false impression. But they rose. They went higher. So when you deal with someone, never attack their character, never attack their intelligence. Listen, always, only deal with behavior because behavior is changeable. Proverbs 18, verse 14. And it says, “The spirit of a man can endure his sickness, but a broken spirit who can bear?” In other words, look, if I have a strong self-image, if I have an assurance that I am loved and that I have worth and that I have significance, then when something happens I can handle it. But you break my spirit, you

demean me, you tell me I'm stupid, you tell me that I'll never amount to anything, then you're going to break my spirit.

PART TWO

Ephesians chapter 4, verse 29. It says, "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth. But only such a word as is good for edification, for building according to the need of the moment." You know there are so many young people that are hurting. And there are so many men and women out in the workforce that are demeaned and that are brutalized and are constantly held up to a standard that they can't measure up to. Or they do well, and they slip one time, and then they're just cut down. When they come home, that's not what they need. If you want them coming home, if you want them happy to be at home, then you learn how to speak according to the need of the moment. And you learn how to edify and you learn how because the rest of the verse says, "...that it may give grace to those who hear." Now if it gives grace, it's giving unearned, unmerited favor. So it means that you see potential there. All right now, in Job, chapter 16, verse 15, and this is such an important verse, "I too could speak like you, if I were in your place. I [too] could compose words against you, and shake my head at you...." I could do what you're doing to me. But he also says this. "I could strengthen you with my mouth, and the solace of my lips could lessen your pain." Do you see the contrast there? You can strengthen a person with your mouth. You can use your words to lessen their pain. That's what we need to do. All right, let me go on. Number five: never counterattack. In other words, if a person is coming against you, if they're letting you have it, listen don't whip out the sword of your tongue and just lash at them and cut them back down. Never counterattack. You know, sometimes we counterattack like this. "Well, you're not so smart yourself. Well, you're not so good-looking either. And they cut you down. All right. "I've seen you do some really pretty dumb things, some really stupid things. I've seen you be so mean." All of a

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sudden you're throwing other things into the conversation. And they're going to stop and wonder, "When was I this way? What do you mean, I was that way?" And you're going to get nowhere. In Proverbs 17, verse 9, it says, "He who covers a transgression seeks love." And isn't that what we're supposed to be about if we're children of God? How do men know that we're disciples of Jesus Christ? Jesus Christ said, "By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love one toward another." And we've seen as we've studied love that love desires another's highest good. O precious one, let's rise to the occasion to be Christ-like to live life on a higher plane. Let's not come down here and do battle, tongue against tongue and imagination against imagination or threat against threat or failure against failure. Let's just stop and listen. You know, as I'm saying all these things, I want to be so like this. It is so good for me to teach you these things, because it reminds me of what I want. It says, "He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends." Now the sixth thing that I want you to see is, never discuss in anger. Never get into a discussion when the timing is not right. Wait for the appropriate moment. You know when a person is angry, when a person is furious, when a person is falling apart, then now's not the time to throw it in reverse and say, "Let's have a discussion on this," because they can't. Proverbs 17:27 says, "He who restrains his words has knowledge and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding." In other words, you're not going to be inflamed. You're not going to be hot. Just know; never discuss something in the heat of emotion. And number seven: never stop or discontinue a discussion and this is so important in your marriage. Never say, "I'm sorry! I'm not going to talk about it. NO! You said it, I don't want to. . ." You say, "But there's emotion there." But listen, if that conversation's been going on and all of a sudden, anger flares up. Or all of a sudden, you know, you're just hurt and you don't want to talk, then is when you need to cool it. You need to bring your spirit under control. And you need to know that you don't stop a

conversation that way. Once you get into a discussion, don't stop it without mutual consent. Once you get into a discussion, make sure that each one of you are finished talking, that you've had your say. And make sure that when you finish that discussion, that your anger is resolved. I'll never forget when Jack came in one day and I had decorated his office and everything and I had cleaned it up and I'd cleaned up his desk pad and I took that off and I wrote, "Surprise darling, I love you, Kay!" I took all the numbers and all that information. I copied it into his address book. The rest I put in the desk drawer, but I just wanted to leave him a love note. Well, when he came to the house that night, I was so proud of what I had done and I said, "Have you been to your office, honey?" And he said, "Yeah." He said, "What'd you do with my desk pad?" And I don't know, but something just hit me then. I thought, don't give me that. Anyway, to make a long story short. He ended up going to bed, and I'm sitting in my rocker in our bedroom, planning my radio message, "How to Have Joy, No Matter What," and I am rocking furiously. I am upset with him. We didn't resolve anything before he went to bed. And you know when I got into bed. I was hanging on the edge of that bed. I thought, don't you know I'm here. Don't you try to touch me. I had never resolved the anger. I never resolved the conflict. That's not the way you do it. Well, the next morning, God made me resolve it because God reminded me that I was to be angry and sin not and I was not to let the sun go down on my wrath. And I said, "But, God, he didn't understand me. He didn't handle me right." And God said, "It's not him, it's you that I'm talking to." All right, now, so what should we do? Well Proverbs 13, verse 15 says, "Good understanding produces favor, but the way of the treacherous is hard." Proverbs 14:29 and 30 says, "He who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who is quick-tempered exalts folly. A tranquil [mind] is life to the body, but passion is rottenness to the bones." You need to bring your passions under control, Precious One. You need to not let the sun go down on your wrath. You need to bring a discussion to a good conclusion,

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even if it's, "Okay, honey, we'll talk about this more tomorrow when we feel like it or when we've had a chance to think about these things." Well listen, in your conversation there are times when you're not going to be able to give praise, because it's not due and it's not healthy, because there's nothing to praise them about. But you can give encouragement. So remember, give encouragement in your conversation. Look down the road. Look at what's before us. We need someone, Precious One, to love us unconditionally. We need someone who's going to believe in us. And as I say all this, I just want you to know, because we're getting ready to talk about the sexual behavior between a husband and a wife. And just remember that when you meet your husband's needs sexually, it opens him up to good conversation. And when you meet your wife's needs emotionally, it opens her up to good conversation.