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## Strengthening Your Marriage Seminar Communication (Session # 4)

The word communicate means to reveal or convey information. It also means to have dealings with or connection to someone. Its' etymological base is the Latin word communis, which means common. The "common union" which constitutes the word communication is an apt description of the "leave, cleave, and become one flesh," that God instituted for marriage (Gen. 2:24). Harmonious communication is vital in marriage (Amos. 3:3).

The basic purpose of the man and woman in marriage is to glorify God (1Cor. 10:31). Marriage is a picture of the relationship between Christ and the church (Eph. 5:22-33). The key to Godly communication in marriage is Jesus Christ. Jesus is the ultimate and final communication of God. He is called the Word ("Logos" in Greek) in John 1:1. The word "logos" meant a word or saying or discourse. Jesus is the living Word who is revealed in the written word, the Scriptures (2Tim. 3:16). God is a Spirit Who cannot be seen (Jhn. 1:18, 4:4). The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us to communicate the character and nature of the living God to us (Jhn. 1:14). Jesus is the self revelatory One who reveals the Father (Jhn. 14:8-9). A marriage with God glorifying communication is possible when husband and wife have been born from above (Jhn. 3:3) and live in Christ (Jhn. 15:1-7; Gal. 2:20). The Spirits' fruit will be evidenced in their lives (Gal. 5:22-23).

A study in the life of Christ in the Gospel accounts is an excellent way to learn how to communicate in a way that is pleasing to God. Jesus taught the apostles how to pray (Matt. 6:9-13), emphasizing the importance of communication and relationship with our heavenly Father. Jesus spent the majority of His time with the twelve apostles and an inner circle of three (Matt. 17:22, 24:3, 26:37; Acts 1:6), because deep communication takes time in order not to be superficial (1Pet. 3:7). Jesus focused on them, asking questions and listening carefully to their answers (Matt. 16:13-19) He was aware of their conversations and corrected them as necessary (Matt. 20:20-28; Mk. 9:33-37). He did not condemn, but neither glossed over sin (Jhn. 8:1-11). Most importantly, Jesus communicated His love (Jhn. 13:1).

Since none of us is without sin as Jesus, our communications will be imperfect and sometimes sinful. Remember these three phrases on those occasions. I'm sorry. Please forgive me. I love You!

