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Nampa Bible Church Home Groups  
Marital Methods Applied Part 1: Communication

Our previous lessons have shown us that we are created in God's image and that our lives and our marriages exist for the purpose of bringing Him glory. It is our duty to patiently help our spouse to become more Christlike. Since God is the motivation for godly communication let's look into what godly communication looks like.

- 1) How important is the art of listening in being a godly communicator? (see listening section of handout)
  
- 2) Give some examples of ways you "sinfully communicate". What usually drives you to sinful communication?
  
- 3) The world tells us that cutting sarcasm, negativity and harsh speech are great forms of humor. After reading thru the verses on communication on the other handout, how do you think God views negativity and harsh speech? What are some examples of negative speech, harsh words or harmful sarcasm? What are the Biblical opposites of these examples?
  
- 4) What does negativity, cutting sarcasm or harsh speech really communicate about your view of the person you're talking to? How about your view of God? On the other hand what are the benefits (fruits) of godly communication?
  
- 5) Based on James 1:26, Eph 4:29 and Col 4:6, how much harsh speech is too much? Is snapping at your spouse okay? Is having an irritated tone of voice okay? Where do you draw the line? Is negative, bitter or harsh speech okay *sometimes*?
  
- 6) What should godly behavior look like during a conflict? What should godly behavior look like after a conflict? Try to think some verses as examples.

The goal of our marriages should be to honor God *and* to honor our spouse so that *they* can honor God. We should strive to enhance our spouse's glory so they can live out the glory of God.