

MP XI Guard Your Mouth

By Greg Rangel

“Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!” (James 3:5).

There has to come a time in the life of married couples where they have to make a conscious decision to better their relationship when they see that their marriage is in trouble. As soon as they begin to see the rough waters, married people must choose to decide to work together as one during the most violent times of the storm because failure to do so will cause the ship to go down little by little.

Nobody said that marriage would be easy. On the contrary, marriage at times can become very difficult, especially depending on the personality of each individual. If the couple does not make right decisions, that is, decisions that will edify the marriage, the results can be very costly, both emotionally, and financially.

Being married can either be a great blessing or a great curse. Some no doubt can quickly say that their previous marriage was a great curse because of how terrible either the previous wife or husband was. But unfortunately when a marriage fails, in most cases, not in all, both are to blame because both made decisions that affected the marriage in a very negative way. Words, actions, and decisions from both parties will always cause marriages to collapse. Regardless of the personalities of each individual, if a couple truly wants a marriage to work, many sacrifices will be made from both individuals in order to have a successful marriage. But when pride and bad decisions that were made during a very agitated time get in the way, the wonderful marriage begins to deteriorate, and one day it will take its toll.

Whenever I have the opportunity to speak to a couple that is facing marital problems, I will always try to get them to see the root of the problem. The reason that either party has lost respect and honor for each other, and now have no problem in sharing insults and derogatory words, is because there isn't any more love within the marriage. As previously mentioned throughout this series, the reason that problems are occurring is not because he or she is doing this or that, it is because the emphasis is no longer on love but on other things. Either party or both many times just get too busy and no longer have any time to invest in each other's needs.

Married couples must make time for each other. Husbands must take the time to listen to their wife and wife's their husbands. Also, both need to honor and respect each other in everything. As previously mentioned, instead of giving each other a piece of your mind, why not rather humble yourself and reply with a soft answer and not harsh words? Instead of loosing control of your words and emotions, why not rather hold your tongue? Failure to stop your words from coming out of your mouth will cause great and long lasting and many times permanent damage to the marriage. Remember the phrase “sticks and stones might brake my bones but words will never hurt me?” Well, isn't that so false? Of course it is. Sticks and stones might brake my bones but words will cause more damage.

James the Lord's half brother wrote in James 3:2-8, *"For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."*