

Communication... THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN RELATIONSHIPS

Getting married is one of the most adventurous things a person can do.

Did you ever stop to think that when people are getting married they are doing something they don't know anything about? And when you try it a couple of times, you usually know less about it the second time than you did the first time.

Not too many people would argue with you if you said starting a marriage had something to do with love. And probably no single subject in the concerns of humanity has received as much attention as love. Without a doubt, love has ruined more lives than war and made more happiness

than all the dreams of paradise.

What is the secret to love? What is the way to a happy marriage? These are questions that have been asked and answered many times. Some of the answers have been wise, many stupid. Few of them have shown the way to being happy in love and marriage.

Ron Hubbard, internationally acclaimed American philosopher and writer, has found many of those answers. "Love" is not enough to guarantee a stable, long-lasting relationship, according to Hubbard. Here are some of Hubbard's hints on selecting a marriage partner and ensuring a successful union. They depend uniformly on communication:

- Communication is the root of marital success from which a strong union can grow, and non-communications is the rock on which the ship will bash out her keel.

- What is the "communication lag" of the individual? When asked a question, how long does it take him to register and return? The length of time intervening between the time a question or remark is addressed to a person and that that person answers the original question or statement is known as his "communica-

tion lag." The fast answer tells of the fast mind.

Marital partners who have the same communication lag (meaning their rate of response to questions or remarks addressed to them is similar) will get along; where one partner is fast and one is slow, the situation will become unbearable to the fast partner and miserable to the slow one.

- A "communication line" is the route along which a communication travels from one person to another. A marriage can go on the rocks when the line between partners is cut or blocked (such as: a third person interferes by telling falsehoods to each partner separately; one person withholds communication from the other; one person cuts communication to the other by "clamping up"; one puts unnecessary or painful communication on the line to the partner, etc.).

Jealousy comes about because of the insecurity of the jealous person, and the jealousy may or may not have foundation. This person is afraid of hidden communications lines and will do anything to try to uncover them. The partner thinks himself entitled to have open communications lines, whereas his marital partner insists that he shut many of them. The resultant quarrels and disputes can be violent.

- Marriage is a created relationship. When people stop creating it, it ceases to exist. The moment people stop creating the family unit, it isn't. It is not the other way around. It is not that all men are evil, so therefore contracts such as marriage dissolve usually in infidelity and go all to pieces. That is not true. The reverse is true.

A family that doesn't continue to create itself as a family will cease to exist as a family. Some people believe a marriage or family will hang together through no effort of its own. It won't.

You must realize that a marriage is something you have to create into existence and keep created, and when you stop working at it, it will cease.

- When in doubt, communicate.

— Angie Mann



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