

Desperate Households
Part 2: Desperate Communication
Ephesians 5:15-20

Series Summary

Cicero Christian Church presents Desperate Households, a series about life, love, and marriage. We go beneath the surface to consider the struggles that every married couple faces - with love, communication, and raising kids. This sermon will focus on what women truly desire and need in a man in order to feel loved, valued, and inspired to become the woman of God that He desires for them to be.

Big Idea

The Big Idea of this sermon is: **Communication is THE BIG DEAL in Marriage.** One of the most important skills if not the most important skill to master in marriage is the art of clear communication. Almost every divorce comes down to lack of communication. In order to survive and repair a desperate household and a desperate marriage then you must learn that Communication is not simply a Big Deal but it is ***“THE BIG DEAL!”***

Five Principles of “Big Deal” Communication

Big Idea – Communication is THE BIG DEAL in Marriage

Principle #1 – Principle of Inclining Your Ear

- Proverbs 22:17
- **Key Point** – The key point of this principle comes to the point of application by concentrating on one word: Listen. If we truly want to have healthy communication in our marriage then we must be ready and willing to be still and listen to one another. We cannot be planning what we are going to say next and be a good listener therefore learn the principle of being still.

Principle #2 – Principle of First Response

- **Proverbs 15:1**
- **Key Point** – The key point of this principle is to remind ourselves that the course of conflict is not determined by the person who initiates but by the person who responds. When you are verbally attacked by your spouse how do you respond? Do you add fuel to the fire or do you respond with love and forgiveness?

Principle #3 – Principle of Authenticity

- **Proverbs 12:22**
- **Key Point** – The key point of this principle is that each person needs to learn to be honest and transparent with one another. This is very difficult in a marriage. Are you creating an environment for your spouse where he/she can be transparent or is it one of fear of judgment?

Principle #4 – Principle of Proper Timing

- **Proverbs 15:23**
- **Key Point** – The key point of this principle is that there is a right time and a right place to communicate effectively with one another. If you are in a heated argument then it is time to take a break and revisit the conversation at a later point in time when you can talk in a calm and effective manner. Keep in mind that timing matters.

Principle #5 – Principle of Prayer

- **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**
- **Key Point** – The key point of this principle is straight forward and that is learn to *pray together*. Healthy communication begins with a healthy prayer life both individually and together.

Questions to Consider

1. What are the most effective ways you communicate in marriage?
2. What are three ways you can improve your communication in marriage?

Memory Verse

Ephesians 5:15 – Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise.

Big Challenge

- 1.) Set aside thirty minutes each day this week to spend quality time with your spouse, no interruptions, and just talk with one another.
- 2.) Read one Proverb for the next 31 days.

CICERO CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1715 Stringtown Pike / Cicero, Indiana 46034 / 317.984.4653

reachteachserve.org

