How To Fuss Fair in The Family

Ephesians 4:25-32

Introduction:

1. Communication is an important key to good relationships.

1. Communication is the transfer of thoughts and feelings from one person to

another.

2. A man from America bought a castle in England and wanted it moved to

America.

a. At the “castle warming” people asked him how he did it.

b. “Simple,” he said. “We numbered every part and put it here where it was

there. You are leaning against stone number 16,329.”

B. To communicate, you have to express thoughts and feelings. 1 Corinthians 2:11

1. When there is conflict, disagreement, communication guidelines are especially

important.

2. Write these five principles on how to fuss fairly. Ephesians 4:25-32

1. STOP LYING AND START TELLING THE TRUTH. Ephesians 4:25
   1. Fear of disagreement often prompts dishonesty; but God has a better way. Proverbs 27:5
      1. Further discussion revealed that Tom would crawl under the covers and mumble something about the way the bed had been made. This hurt Joann’s feelings, because she wanted so much to please him. She would get quiet. Dismayed and frustrated, Tom would seek to find out what was bothering her. Being afraid of a fight, Joann would lie by replying, “Nothing.”
      2. This sequence occurred frequently. Sometimes Tom would press her about her quietness, and her reply, “Nothing is wrong, but there will be if you don’t stop asking me,” only intensified her lie.
      3. Gail saw a woman in grocery tell her boy to “Come on.” After repeating the command again, she said, “If you don’t come on, I’m going to whip you right here in the store.” The boy still didn’t obey. She finally led him out of the store. Why didn’t he come when she threatened to whip him. She had probably lied to him before.
      4. Dishonesty damages - even completely destroys communication. Matthew 5:37
      5. Absolutes are rarely accurate.
      6. Traffic lights going to Avondale, 1987.
2. KEEP CURRENT. Ephesians 4:26, 27
   1. Anger not dealt with is anger saved for future use.
      1. There is a tendency to “save up” irritation and unload it at one time on mates and children.
      2. A man came home and saw a cake with seven candles on it. “Whose birthday is it?”, he asked. His wife said, “The dress I have on. It’s seven years old today.”
      3. “My wife got historical.” “You mean hysterical?” “No. Historical. She brought up everything I had ever done wrong.”
      4. We are to deal with our anger each day. Matthew 5:23-26
      5. Grady and Mattie Baynes: “We’ve never gone to bed mad at each other. Now we’ve set up all night a few times.”
3. ASSAULT THE ISSUE, NOT THE PERSON. Ephesians 4:29, 30
   1. “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me”–BALONEY
      1. Husbands call their wives, Dopey, Numbskull, Hardhead.
      2. Parents call their children, Mean, Stupid.
      3. 14-year-old girl, R rated movie.
   2. We need to stick with the action, the issue and not devalue the person. Matthew 5: 21, 22
4. ACT, DON’T REACT. Ephesians 4:31, 32
   1. Many people admit they did wrong but insist the other person did wrong first.
   2. I need to realize that I am responsible to act in a right way - even when I have been hurt.
   3. Notice the text.
      1. Verse 31 contains reactions.
      2. Verse 32 contains responsible actions.
      3. God acted toward us, not reacted.
   4. Man buying a newspaper was nice to the man who was rude to him. “Does he always act that way?” “Yes.” “And why do you treat him nice?” “I don’t want to give another person the power to tell me how to feel and act each day.” Matthew 7:12
5. KEEP THE POWER FLOWING: BE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE. Ephesians 4:25-32
   1. Verse 25.
      1. Don’t lie.
      2. Do tell the truth.
   2. Verses 26, 27.
      1. Don’t.
         1. Sin.
         2. Let the sun go down on your wrath.
         3. Give place to the devil.
      2. Do be angry.
   3. Verse 28.
      1. Don’t steal.
      2. Do.
         1. Labor.
         2. Give to someone who needs.
   4. Verse 29.
      1. Don’t use corrupt communication.
      2. Do speak what is good.
         1. To the use of building up.
         2. To give grace to those who hear.
   5. Verses 30-32
      1. Don’t grieve the Holy Spirit.
      2. Do.
         1. Put away:
            1. Bitterness.
            2. Wrath.
            3. Anger.
            4. Clamor.
            5. Evil speaking.
            6. Malice.
         2. Be.
            1. Kind.
            2. Tenderhearted.
            3. Forgiving.

Conclusion:

1. Having good relationships in the family is hard work.

B. After calling on a new friend, I parked in her driveway for a few parting words. Noticing

a stately evergreen tree in her yard, I told her it was one of the most beautiful trees I had

ever seen. Some years ago, she told me, her marriage had been threatened by boredom

and neglect. Her husband had just planted this young spruce. If the tree died, they

agreed, they would get a divorce, but if it grew, they would stay together. “You know,

she said, “we caught each other carrying water to that tree.”

C. Having a good relationship with God takes effort.

1. God started the work of reconciliation. John 3:16; Romans 5:8, 9

2. Man must respond. Luke 9:23; Mark 16:16