

Romans 15:7 (NIV) *Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

WE HAVE DIFFERENT STYLES OF COMMUNICATION:



"Can we stop now? My arms are tired from holding up my end of the conversation!"

A man starts a conversation because he perceives a _____ needing to be addressed. Otherwise, he feels no particular need to talk!



"I'm trying to hire a hacker to get inside your brain and tell me what's on your mind!"

A woman has a constant desire to _____ her husband to everything in her life. She assumes that he wants to do the same!

Therefore, the most important communication skill a couple can develop is to learn to _____. Whoever begins the conversation should be the one to _____ for it.

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) *Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.*

On a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high) ...

- how frequently do you use words that "build up" your spouse? _____
- how well and how often do you feel you listen to your spouse? _____

THE LOVE DARE CHALLENGE:

WOMEN: Focus on one way in which your spouse feels RESPECTED.

MEN: Focus on one way in which your spouse feels CHERISHED.

Now, commit to implementing it this week in a practical way!



In the movie *Fireproof*, as Caleb and Catherine struggle with their marriage, they each explain to friends their view on why the relationship is failing.

Caleb claims that Catherine is too sensitive and that "she doesn't show me respect." In a scene that occurs simultaneously, Catherine is comforted by her hospital co-workers as she explains that Caleb is "so insensitive." She laments, "He doesn't listen to me. He doesn't understand my needs." It's a classic, timeless



he said / she said dilemma – men viewing the relationship from one perspective, and women seeing a very different side.

Actress Katharine Hepburn was once quoted as saying, "Sometimes I wonder if men and women really suit each other. Perhaps they should live next door and just visit now and then." We all know the jokes – men not stopping to ask for directions, women grabbing the credit card and heading for the mall. She thinks he doesn't listen and he wonders if she will ever stop talking.



And yet, the creator of the universe has designed us to perfectly complement each other, as part of a matched pair. The Bible explains it this way: "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27) It's clear that the differences were deliberate – perfectly conceived to make the two opposites both irresistibly attracted and drawn to each other as partners and companions.

Tonight, we will discover how to negotiate our divinely-designed differences!



TODAY IS DAY 3 OF THE LOVE DARE!

Don't follow your heart, _____ your heart.

Contracts say, "I take you for _____."

Covenants say, "I give _____ to you."

LOVE IS BUILT ON TWO PILLARS:

_____ : is how love REACTS to minimize the negative
avoids problems
is preventative

James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear,
slow to speak, slow to wrath:

_____ : is how love ACTS to maximize the positive
creates blessing
is proactive

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one
another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

THE OPPOSITE OF LOVE IS _____.

- We hate selfishness in others, but we justify it in ourselves.
- Selfishness lets us set low standards for ourselves, while holding high expectations for our spouse
- A good deed done for a wrong motive is ultimately still selfish!
- You either make decisions out of love for others or love for yourself.
- True love always looks for ways to say YES.
- No one will be quicker to recognize this change than your spouse!

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in
lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

There is no unisex brain. Girls arrive already wired as girls, and boys arrive already wired as boys.
Their brains are different by the time they're born.

~ Dr. Louann Brizendine
USCF Medical School



MEN ARE LIKE WAFFLES:

- Men process life in _____ and each one has room for one issue and one issue only.
- Men are _____ by nature. They are not interested as much in the journey as in the _____.
- A man spends most of his time in boxes he can _____ in, and ignores the boxes that _____ him or make him feel like a _____.
- Men take a "_____ " approach to communication.
- Men like hobbies and mechanical activities because they give _____ feedback.

WOMEN ARE LIKE SPAGHETTI:

- When women process life, every thought and issue in their life is _____ to every other thought and issue in some way.
- Life is much more of a _____ for women than for men. They enjoy the _____ as much as the destination (maybe even more).
- Women are typically better at _____ than men.
- Women consistently seek to _____ things through and _____ issues together.
- A conversation that makes a wife feel better will probably make a husband feel _____.
- A woman cannot imagine a moment without _____ in her mind!