

Pastor's Weekly Devotional- August 31, 2017

"Misunderstandings"

MISUNDERSTANDINGS! Have you ever misunderstood someone or misread that person's motives? Misunderstanding seems to be part of life. Unfortunately, it can cause deep wounds and divide and separate families.

In his book, Communication: Key To Your Marriage, Norman Wright gives six insights why misunderstandings develop so easily. He says that talking to someone, there are six messages which actually come across:

1. What you mean to say.
2. What you actually say.
3. What the other person hears.
4. What the other person thinks he/she hears.
5. What the other person says about what you said.
6. What you think the other person said about what you said.

Is there any way we can prevent misunderstanding – to prevent this relational mess, to stop it before someone gets hurt? Thankfully yes! There are several things we can do. Here are a few suggestions:

- **SPEAK CLEARLY.** Stop being vague, unclear and ambiguous. Think about what you want to say and state it succinctly.
- **LISTEN INTENTLY.** If you are not certain what the person has said, ask questions. Ask for clarifications. You can even repeat what you think you have heard and ask whether it was so or not.
- **DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS.** If you heard something was said in your absence, it is better to go to the individual and find out the facts. Don't cause a relational damage by harboring "second hand" information.
- **AVOID THINKING THE WORSE ABOUT OTHERS.** To keep from misjudging others or exaggerating their flaws, try to root your perceptions in what you do know about them. Give them the benefit of the doubt. Try to see their good rather than their bad.
- **REMEMBER YOUR OWN HUMANNESS.** You too will be misunderstood. You too are full of flaws (surprise!). "Do unto others as you would have them do to you!"
- **LEARN TO FORGIVE.** If perchance an inappropriate comment was made about you, don't fly off the handle. Don't get mad. Think about the many times you have said unkind and express caustic words about others. Learn to forgive others. Forgive yourself. After all, what is there about any of us who deserve the redeeming, unconditional forgiveness of God? Can you think of any reason...?

Have a blessed week! See you in church Sunday!
Pastor Sewdin