

Communication in Marriage

A man and his wife didn't have any children, but they had a Labrador retriever that they loved and adored, just like a child.

For months, the man's wife had been planning a trip overseas. The plan was that she would go to New York first, then fly to London. From London, she would go on to various other cities.

When she got to New York, she called home and asked, "How are things?"

The husband's reply was shocking! "The dog's dead."

"What?" she exclaimed. "Why would you just come out and say it like that? This is devastating news to me. I mean, couldn't you have done that a little bit differently? I'm miles from home, and you tell me the dog's dead. If we had children, that's like telling me one of them died."

"I don't know how else to say it," the husband responded. "I mean, he's dead."

"Well, you could have given it to me in stages," said the wife.

"What do you mean?" he asked.

"Well, for instance, when I first called to check in, you could have told me, 'The dog's on the roof.' Then when I called from London, you could have said, 'The dog has fallen off the roof.' And when I called from Paris, you could have said, 'The dog had to be taken to the vet, and he's in the animal hospital and not doing well.' And when I finally arrived in Rome and called, you could have said, 'Honey, sit down and brace yourself. Our darling Labrador retriever has passed away.' You could have done it like that, and then I would have taken it better. Then I could have handled it."



"I'm sorry. I'm sorry," said the husband. "I'll try to do better in the future."

"Well, OK," the wife said. "I just wanted to clear that up. You know, get it off my chest. Anyway, how's my mother?"

"She's on the roof."

(more)

Perhaps that guy learned to be a little more sensitive in the way he communicated with his wife. Men, we need to be a little more compassionate and understanding of our wives, especially when it comes to communication. We should speak the truth, but do it tenderly and with love.

Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them (Colossians 3:19 ESV).

And the same principle should work the other way, too.

– Beecher Hunter