

Making Those Sweet Pickles

A happy couple had always raised cucumbers and made sweet pickles together.

The husband just loved to watch things grow. Thus, he spent his winters studying the seed catalogs to get the best possible cucumbers. The whole family delighted in preparing the soil, planting, and caring for the plants. The husband would often go out and just enjoy the way they grew.

His wife loved to make sweet pickles. She studied the best recipes and the best methods of preparing and preserving them. They were such a happy family, and all their visitors went home with a jar of their famous pickles. The church always had a good supply of their pickles as well. People marveled at this family that had found a project to do together.



Finally, the man died. The next spring, all the children returned home. They said to their mother, "We know how much you love making pickles, so we are going to prepare the garden and plant them for you."

The mother smiled and said, "Thanks a lot, children, but you don't have to do any planting, for I really don't enjoy pickle-making. I only did that because your father loved to grow the cucumbers so much."

The children were all amazed, but the youngest son was upset because the father had pulled him aside not too long before and confided in him that he really didn't like growing cucumbers, and he only did it to please the mother.

The question for you: Is this a happy or a sad story. You decide ...

1. In many ways, it is happy. The man and wife were happy doing for each other. People enjoyed being with them. They praised them for their affection for one another and the common project they shared.
2. But why is it also sad? Primarily because they were not able to share their changing needs and joys with each other. Instead of growing in their relationship, they stagnated in the performance of what they thought were their duties to each other.

This account assuredly underscores the value of communication – in marriage, to be sure, but also in the other personal and professional relationships we have – whether it be in school, church, the military or the careers we follow.

And for us in Life Care and Century Park, it is absolutely essential that we have honest and complete communication with each other in order to obtain the best possible outcomes for our residents.

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver (Proverbs 25:11 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter