**Time and Dialog**

It is difficult to find the time and, especially, to find it at the moment in which the other needs me. It is only possible if I am disposed to leave or to renounce certain things when I see that the other seeks my support and my understanding.

We live in an impersonal world which spins around things and in reality we know how to speak better than ever before, but always about things. It is a functional conversation, a useful dialog, in other words, we speak what is necessary so that things and the home machinery continue functioning. And for that, one must iron, cook, pay the bills, take the children to school, buy them shoes – and all of those things are talked about.

But little or nothing is dialogued about the personal things, the intimacies, that exchange of each one’s inner self, rather it is a conversation about exterior topics.

To dialog means to give oneself to the other from what one has most intimately. It is to enter into communion, it is opening the heart to the other and showing him or her who I am within myself, my anxieties, my hopes.

Moreover, the rhythm of life we have conspires against true dialog. We are in such a hurry that we do not have time and one cannot open up one’s heart in a minute and a half. To relate those deep things: concerns, troubles, desires of the soul – time is needed, to prepare an environment, and things come out slowly. Time is needed….., but there is no time.

The lack of or the weakness of marital dialog is the greatest problem which modern marriages face and it is a marriage cancer because it destroys marriage from within.

Health problems, housing problems, economic problems…..all may be very distressing, but they are external. They certainly threaten love, from the outside. On the other hand, the lack of dialog wounds the root of love, the essence of love.

The weakening of dialog necessarily brings with itself the weakening of tenderness, of sensitivity, of understanding, of respect…..of all the things which involve love.

Basically, it is no longer valuing the spouse as a person, as the main addressee of my love and to begin considering him or her as a “partner,” as “co-manager” of the family business, etc. But the love between partners is not enough to fill the heart of someone who decided for marriage.

And then one is truly astonished with how God works miracles because there is a series of marriages who are together miraculously because according to all rules of psychology they should be separated, since they have not dialogued in years. The human being has the need for interior exchange and if he/she does not achieve it at home, perhaps he/she may find it outside the home.

Here we can recall that a difference exists between the man and the woman: women have a need and a capacity for dialog much greater than that of the man. Moreover, they permanently spin around persons while men generally are more interested in things. Therefore, it is harder for the man to give himself, to surrender himself, to dialog. On the other hand, the woman is easily tangle up in her own emotional richness and can become oversensitive.

Nevertheless, that does not happen in many marriages, in spite of not having dialogued for many years. And then one explains it only by a miracle from God who takes care that none of them meets anybody who can offer them a little bit more than what their spouse does. But on behalf of marriages, not dialoguing for a long time is playing with fire, it is walking on the rim of the precipice. It is putting love at risk, it is breaking the love, it is not living up to the promise of making the other happy.

Periodically, we should review our system for dialog: when do we dialog? Why do we not dialog?

Perhaps we should also ask ourselves if it is that we do not have time or if we do not make time? For those of us who are interested, we always have time.

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