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SENTINEL

Communications: Vital

"It's a pity to go to another man when I should be discussing these things with my husband."

She was in her early thirties. Pretty. Cultured. Wife of a space technician with a Master's degree. But she was at the end of her line.

For 10 years she had endured life with a man who, though decent and honorable and successful, never allowed a subject vital to his marriage to be opened for discussion.

He laid down the law—and the matters were closed. He simply refused to converse or discuss with his wife these things so vital to a successful and happy marriage.

His presence thought he was the greatest. "They think he is an angel," she said. "But I'd far rather have him as a friend than a husband."

She had waited 10 years to confide in a minister—and still she was humiliated and ashamed that she had to discuss these intimacies with an outsider—and another man at that.

And yet, she had to talk to somebody. Her grievances had been bottled up too long and now they

were exploding. She couldn't sit on the lid any longer.

How do you figure a man who will let a gulf widen in his marriage. He knows the importance of communication on his job. His company pays high prices for advertisers who tell their story to the public.

He is constantly working on communication systems between

Perspective

By Jamie Buckingham

earth and high flying satellites. Public relations are essential to his business. Yet he is totally ignorant of the important lines of communication at home.

His wife is dying to talk through the deeper things of their marriage with him, yet she is never able to even win a hearing.

"Those rare moments are sheer gold when my husband takes time to talk with me," said one young wife whose hardworking husband was always too busy or too tired.

He paid the bills. He gave his wife plenty to live on. He didn't drink too

much. He didn't run around with other women. He worked hard. But one day he came home and she wasn't there. What happened?

She wanted into his life—and she wanted to let him into her life. But he had missed this altogether. And now he misses her.

One of the most common difficulties in the modern home is the lack of conversation between husband and wife. Mornings at the breakfast table he's rushing to get to work on time. Evenings, he's out working on the car. At night everybody sits and stares at the TV.

The only time most husbands and wives really get down to the bed rock issues of their marriage is when they are hollering at each other—in the heat of an argument.

The majority of marriages that go bad—go bad simply because husband and wife fail to put into practice the essential of Christianity. Love each other more than self. Turn the other cheek. Walk the second mile. Return love for anger.

Love one another applies to more than just your neighbor. It also applies to your wife or husband.