

THE PEACEMAKER CENTER

Fall 2013

Secret Messages of Marriage



It's a Friday evening and Tina is alone. She walks into her bedroom to see a small package on the night stand, a present from her husband Markus who is away on business for the weekend. She opens up the package and sees a necklace of white gold. Markus had left it there the night before expecting her to be elated by the thoughtful way that he expressed his love for her.

Tina looks at the necklace in disgust. To her it is a symbol of his neglect. It represents Markus' absence; the weekly choices Markus makes to prioritize his job over Tina. She never wanted expensive jewelry. She wanted a husband who would be present in her daily life.

Tina and Markus are experiencing the same events but with very different interpretations. Markus' intentions were to please Tina by working hard to give her all he thought she needed. The impact of Markus' actions on Tina, however, was quite different. Tina received the message that she will always lose out to Markus' job and is therefore unimportant to Markus. This difference in impact vs. intent is what begins the defensive relational dance between Markus and Tina.

Markus' intentions were loving. Tina had told him in the past that she loved the jewelry he bought for her on business trips. He sees how much Tina enjoys the new home that they were able to afford because of his job and would feel like a failure as a husband if he had to ask her to change her lifestyle.

Tina's intentions were loving. She wanted to look on the bright side, to be a good soldier and not complain. After all, she was happy to have a home that she loves and a husband who works hard for the family. But no matter how hard she tries, the hurt and anger seem to seep out and pour into their relationship. She finds herself being short with Markus over little things that don't really bother her that much. She is not operating from a base of trust and stability in the relationship but instead a base of insecurity

Written by Adam Hoover. Adam is available in the Audubon and Downingtown offices.

[Article continued on back...]



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SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 9, 2014 for The Peacemaker Center's Annual Fundraiser Banquet.



Jenny & Tyler
In concert at Willowdale Chapel
Friday, November 22, 2013
Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased on line at www.thepeacemakercenter.org



OFFICE LOCATIONS

- Downingtown: 103 Garris Road
- Kennett Square: 321 E Cypress St
- West Chester: 430 Hannum Ave
- Audubon: 788 Sunnyside Ave
- Coatesville: 643 East Lincoln Hwy

Day and Evening Hours

- D'town, WC & C'ville: 610-269-2661
- Kennett Square: 610-444-3898
- Audubon: 484-222-0577
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Do You Like To Shop?

If you shop through Amazon.com consider starting at www.thepeacemakercenter.org.



GALATIANS 6:9-10

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.

Though well intended, Markus did not think to validate the impact that his actions had on Tina. As important as his intentions were, it would be a break from reality if he were to ignore the real world impact they make on Tina.

Tina did not recognize the kindness in Markus' intentions. By hiding her own feelings she bought into the false message that Markus thought of her as peripheral instead of embracing what would have been a more pleasant truth.

In Tina and Markus' case there were few words spoken at all and when they were, they came out in annoyance. They were self-focused monologues concerning their own intentions and hurts without recognizing the intentions of their spouse or the impact of their actions. Too often we focus on the surface issues alone, trying to use the power of persuasion to manipulate our spouses into doing what we think would be best. This type of expression of emotion typically sets the other partner into a defensive posture and perpetuates the feeling that we are on opposite teams to our spouse.

Tina was feeling unimportant, Markus was feeling like a disappointment but they never expressed this to one another. In fact, they hardly recognized these deep-seated emotions in themselves. The feeling of being known, understood, and heard are often more important than the surface issue itself. A focus on understanding heart issues sends the message that both partners are on the same team. Perhaps Marcus cannot change his job situation but he may be able to address the emotional needs of Tina to assure her of her importance to him.

These types of negative patterns can be broken. It begins with bringing to the surface and putting into words the deep needs, hurts, and feelings. This can be done with a trusted friend or a counselor trained to help put into words all the complex emotions that run deep in our hearts. This needs to be focused on a desire to listen, remaining open to learning about your spouses' heart. We ask, "How can I address my partner's heart's desires in a realistic and sustainable way?" God asks that we commit to having a heart posture that seeks to do all that we can to love our spouses as Christ loves us.

There is a danger in allowing these secret messages of marriage to go unspoken. These messages run deep within the heart and are of primary importance. The emotions attached to these messages are what drive the relational dance and can determine the trajectory of our marriage.

Written by Adam Hoover. Adam is available for clients in the Downingtown and Audubon offices.



OUR MISSION

The mission of The Peacemaker Center is to help people find peace with God, themselves and with others through biblically-based counseling and conflict resolution.

The Peacemaker Center is open to anyone for help with:

- Individual, Group, Family Counseling
- Marital Counseling
- Grief and Loss Issues
- Depression
- Anger Management
- Eating Disorders
- Addictions
- Surviving Sexual Abuse
- Life Coaching
- Financial Counseling
- Preparing for Marriage
- Conciliation
- Other Mental Health Issues

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Portions of Proceeds will be donated to provide scholarships.

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Now in Coatesville:
Anger Management Classes

For more information and to register:
Manage.anger@thepeacemakercenter.org or
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Welcome to Our New Interns Haley Weber and Danielle Wilson

We welcome new intern, Haley Weber, a student at Cairn University working on a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Bible. Haley loves outdoor activities and is learning how to knit.



We welcome new intern, Danielle Wilson, a student at the University of Delaware. Danielle is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Human Services with a concentration in Administration and Family Policy. Danielle loves to watch football and sing.