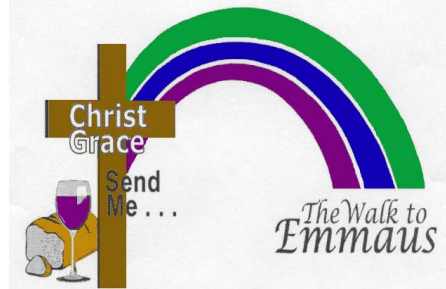


Lansing Emmaus Community Footprints



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SILENCE: NOT ALWAYS GOLDEN!

Do you ever wonder where things went wrong?

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment. The next week, the man realized that he would need his wife to wake him at 5 a.m. for an early-morning business flight to Chicago. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (and lose), he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5 a.m." The next morning the man woke up, only to discover it was 9 a.m. and he had missed his flight. Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't awakened him when he notice a piece of paper by the bed. The paper read, "It is 5 a.m. Wake-up."

What went wrong? They punished each other by not talking! Does the silent treatment really work? Not really. When we stop talking to each other we lose a vital link in communication. The same is true when we stop talking to God. Maybe we have financial problems. A divorce. A family member's death. It hurt us and we stop talking to God.

Our silence actually causes our relationship with God to worsen and deepens our woundedness. Yes, God says "Be still

and know that I am God." But the silence we're speaking about here is not for worship reasons. Silence that arises out of anger, bitterness or resentment serves only to punish. Do you remember when you were little and you stopped speaking to a friend? It wasn't the awe of worship that created the silence. Instead, it was anger. "He took my toy!" "She's mean to me!" "I don't like her!" Childish, isn't it? Aren't we, as adults, mature enough to "talk through" our problems or disappointments?

Let me encourage you to keep talking to God. Maybe you are deeply wounded by a situation in your life. Perhaps a little disappointment seeps into your home. Keep talking to God. As Jesus said, "Without Him, I can do nothing." But together? Together, great things happen. When we keep praying, we keep a vital link. When we keep praying, we find the answers that we need. When we keep praying, we enjoy a sense of being loved by God. Be careful not to let silence rob you of a loving relationship with God. Keep on praying!

Rev. Janet Sweet Richardson



THANKS TO ALL WHO TAKE THEIR NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

The e-mail newsletter list is growing. As of present, we send 33 newsletters by e-mail. Last issue it was 24. THANKS to all of you who receive *Footprints* by e-mail in Acrobat Reader (.pdf) format. The more issues we send electronically, the more the community will save on postage and duplication costs. It will be especially helpful if those of you who live outside the immediate Mid-Michigan area would consider taking delivery by e-mail. If your zip codes begin with 488 or 489, we get a price break because we send so many newsletters there. Other areas cost us more. Benefits you will get, besides the satisfaction of helping your Emmaus Community, are that you will get your newsletter several days sooner, and you will have the choice whether to print it out or to view it on the screen. You will be less likely to misplace a newsletter that is on your hard drive. Also, some of the illustrations are in color. The photocopies are always in black and white.

If you don't have Adobe Acrobat Reader, it is a free download. We will also continue to make the print edition available for anyone who wants it. Please let the Newsletter Coordinators or the Data Manager know if you would like to receive your newsletter by e-mail.

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