

MUCH MORE THAN COMMUNICATION GEN. 13:1-18

“It was a line she wouldn’t cross. The problem was he had a line / two he wouldn’t cross either.”

They constantly argued about...

The problem wasn’t their communication but what the communication was built upon:

- How we make deals
- How we work together
- How & why we break an impasse

Win / win	Win / lose	Lose / win
Lose / lose	Win / win or no deal!	

How does the Word of God help us?

I. There is more than enough for us both to win!

Genesis 13:1 And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

Genesis 13:5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. **Genesis 13:6** And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

Genesis 13:8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we *be* brethren. **Genesis 13:9** ***Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.***

At the bottom of much conflict is:

- A limited point of view
- Few options (either his or her)
- No choices / no good choices

What is the reality?

Him	Both	Her
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Psalm 24:1 The earth is the LORD’S, and the **fulness** thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

1 Timothy 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, **who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;**

Genesis 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, **Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: Genesis 2:17 But** of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt **not** eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

II. Your partner / spouse **always** wins first!

Genesis 13:8 And **Abram** said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we *be* brethren. **Genesis 13:9** *Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself*, I pray thee, from me: if *thou wilt take* the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if *thou depart* to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

1 Corinthians 10:23 **All** things are lawful for me, **but** all things are not expedient: **all** things are lawful for me, but all things edify not. **1 Corinthians 10:24** Let **no** man seek his own, **but** every man **another's** wealth.

What does this look like?

III. Win / Win acknowledges that the relationship / marriage matters most!

Genesis 13:8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be **no** strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; **for we be brethren.**

Pastor, I learned that marriage is always about compromise.
You never get everything you want – sometimes / most times you must compromise.

This is obvious in one sense – we never get everything we want any place / anytime.
However, this is **not** a win / lose **or** a lose / win.

Joke: Secret of a good marriage – the man always gets the last word: “Yes, dear!”

For a marriage to be happy, this **cannot** really be a win / lose or a lose / win.
It can only be something higher.

Marriage

Him

Her

Matthew 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them **male and female**, **Matthew 19:5** And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: **and they twain shall be one flesh?**

Matthew 19:6 Wherefore they are **no more twain, but one flesh.** What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

One flesh = win / win
If we don't both win, in reality, we both lose.
Marriage (one flesh – win / win) matters most.

IV. Win / win does not always win!

Genesis 13:11 Then **Lot chose him** all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. **Genesis 13:12** Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and **pitched his tent toward Sodom.** **Genesis 13:13** But the men of Sodom *were wicked and sinners* before the LORD exceedingly.

Romans 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. **Romans 12:18** **If** it be possible, **as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.**