

C.H.A.L.L.E.N.G.E.S. inc

Working with Families in Business

www.challengesinc.com info@challengesinc.com

1888-273-8307

August 2007 Newsletter

The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do.

~Walter Bagehot

“THE TONGUE” = WFD (Weapon of Family Destruction)

It is the human tongue that controls relationships. The tongue is like a small match. It can light a warm fire with words of comfort, support and compassion or it can destroy a home. The tongue can issue words so hurtful that it can destroy not only a relationship, but the entire family. Out of the same mouth comes a blessing and a cursing.

“Nothing cuts deeper than the spoken word.” “I will never trust you,” “You are a liar,” “You will never amount to anything,” “I don’t care what anyone says, that was never talked about!” Words like these are capable of destroying a life-time of close relationships in a matter of minutes. The *unbridled tongue* can turn friends into enemies and families into strangers. In many cases, one incident of harsh words starts the transformation into bitterness. Hurt feelings fostered by an “I’m right, you’re wrong” attitude enable the human tongue to leave deeper scars than any physical wound. Many times the tongue serves as our reactive emotion to a word or action of another without any rational thought. Reactive emotions are commonly much stronger than our *will to control* it. The tongue finds it very difficult to follow hurtful words with petitions for forgiveness as this is against the nature of the human tongue. These hurtful words can affect relationships for a lifetime. With the tongue in charge there is little hope of forgiveness or compromise as the tongue will usually fall silent rather than utter these unnatural sounds.

How can the human tongue be tamed? How can a human tongue which can sow discord within a family ever achieve family harmony? The human tongue can be changed! It can be changed when each individual sets aside their selfish ambition and envious ego that under normal circumstances, would allow the tongue to so easily take control. This change can take place when each of us control of our emotions by practicing the use of our contemplative mind. This, in turn, enables us to speak with more insight, truth, understanding, justice, righteousness, prudence and love. The tongue, now controlled, can now be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger. A tongue that has truly changed

asks itself each morning, “What can I do today to strengthen my commitments and relationships with my family and our family business?”

Be strong. Don't let your tongue talk you out of it.

We can assist your family in improving interpersonal communications.

~Visit our new website, designed with Family Businesses in mind~

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