

Boundaries In Marriage

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Boundary Values in Your Marriage Compassion and Forgiveness

One of the best ways to overcome hurtful times with one another is to forgive.

Col 3:12-14 Get Ready To Forgive

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 *Bear with each other and forgive* whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. NIV

➤ Identity to Christ

1. God's chosen people > Chosen means intimately favored. Chosen in an agape relationship. High level of relationship.
2. Dearly loved > "held on to closely"

➤ Identity as a Believer

1. We are free to change the way we "dress". Our outward identity is what others/our spouse sees in our actions.
2. Compassion is the door way to hear the heart of our spouse and the heart of the Lord.
3. You are equipped to forgive if you have:
 - Compassion
 - Kindness
 - Humility } The Fruit of the Spirit Gal 5:22
 - Gentleness
 - Patience/Self Control

Without the fruit of the Spirit the best you can hope for is just reducing the tension and having a tenuous peace NOT forgiveness.

➤ Bear With Each Another and > See the Power of Forgiveness.

1. A new point of view: 2 Cor 5:16-20
16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!* 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. NIV

QUESTION: WHAT IS A WORLDLY POINT OF VIEW REGARDING EACH OTHER?

➤ Things that block the “compassion” we need to forgive (not boundary building)

1. Unfulfilled Expectations> Yours alone or as a couple
2. Unkept Promises> Impacting your value in the relationship
3. Unmet Needs> Especially those you have expressed....
4. Unrecognized Sacrifices> When you are taken for granted
5. Unhealed Hurts> This is where forgiveness must come first
6. Unresolved Anger> The wall that you can't break down, not being heard
7. Unrepented Offenses> The “whatevers” build up over the years
8. Unconfessed Sin> This is really hard when YOU know the sin.
9. Undignified Communication> Devalued as a person.

➤ New Creation Eyes

1. First we need to want to see the big picture of safety in healing through forgiveness.
2. Second we are called to put on a new set of eyes to see that the old is gone and the new is has come. These are the eyes of faith regarding each other.
3. Third is our learning about the ministry of reconciliation
 - This is not about feelings, it's about faith
 - This is a part of my new life in Christ, not my old life polished up.
 - This is learning that we are all.....LEARNING and Growing
 - This is about loving>1 Corinthians 13 and keeping no record of wrongs.
 - You can't fix the wall then tear it down
 - It takes “real” time to be sure that forgiveness boundaries are strong.

➤ The Ministry of Reconciliation> The Baseline of Forgiveness

1. 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and *gave us the ministry of reconciliation.*
 - Vision of Forgiveness and Reconciliation:
 - To change/ To exchange > to change your attitude and except the provision God has made.
 - To change the part of one party or individual by action on the part of another.
 - Examine the attitude of your heart.
 - Seek the Lord to understand the attitude of your spouse's heart
 - Realize that this is a healing process not a quick fix
 - Heal with eternity in view, not just a fix-it thinking
 - Build a new bridge of expectations in the area you are in conflict over.
 - Trust that your spouse really wants to be healed in our relationship.
 - Realize that Forgiveness and Reconciliation will start a whole new direction in your lives together
 - Your Relational Vision has changed
 - Your Relational Value has changed
2. Compassion and Forgiveness interchange through the process > the result?
 - Continual maturing of yourself, your spouse and your marriage
 - As compassion opens your hearts door to hear, forgiveness has the chance to flow. As forgiveness flows we are able to hear what we have not and could not have heard before.
 - THE RESULT> A SAFE COMPASSION/FORGIVENESS BOUNDRY VALUE.

The old self is not longer in charge. We can now hear the heart of our spouse through the heart of Christ. We can see God's plan as forgiveness lifts the veil of growth and vision.