

FOR A GREAT MARRIAGE (PART V)

FORGIVENESS

COLOSSIANS 3:18, 19

“A happy marriage is the union of two forgivers.” Ruth Bell Graham

REVEALS GOD. “.... When you forgive someone.... you give up your right to hold a grudge....Nothing is easier than judging, nothing is harder than forgiving, and nothing can reap more blessings.” Dr. Emmerson Eggerichs, Love and Respect (Workbook), p.74. “When we forgive a partner, we are revealing God’s love to him or her, free from condemnation. Human forgiveness enlightens divine forgiveness.” Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott, Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts, p. 146. (**Romans 8:29, fn 8:29, I John 3:23,, fn 3:23, Luke 6:36-42, fn 6:37, 38, fn 6:41, Isaiah 43:25, fn 43:25**) *“To forgive and forget a sin against you is a godly attribute.” Jon Buise. If your marriage is to reveal God, how will you seek to forgive your spouse and seek forgiveness from her or him?*

SOFTENS YOUR HEART, but unforgiveness hardens your heart. “Forgiveness lives at the heart of marriage....if forgiveness is not given to cleanse to the marriage soul, condemnation hovers over the relationship.” Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott, Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts, p. 145. (**Hebrews 3:7-15, fn 3:7-15, Proverbs 28:14, Matthew 19:3-9, fn 19:3-12 Hebrews 12:14,15, fn 12:15, fn 12:14**) *Discuss with your spouse how you could keep condemnation out of your marriage.*

REQUIRES OBEDIENCE. In Ephesians 5:33 Christ calls husbands to give unconditional love and wives to give unconditional respect. As a husband, will you humbly say to your wife, “That felt disrespectful. Did I come across as unloving?” Or as a wife, will you humbly say to your husband, “That felt unloving. Did I come across as disrespectful?” Love and Respect, (Large Print) p. 487. (**Colossians 3:13, fn 3:13, Ephesians 4:32, fn 4:32, I Peter 3:8-14, fn 3:11, Proverbs 24:10, fn 24:10, James 5:16, fn 5:16, Song of Solomon 2:15, fn 2:15**) *For godly preparation and to help you to remember, write out your own question to your spouse in seeking forgiveness.*

Pray briefly with your spouse for each other at bedtime!