

A Marriage Minute

Just a little help for your marriage today



Forgiveness and Forgivingness

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. ---Col. 3:13

Forgiveness is a dynamic thing that must always be moving to be effective. The source of forgiveness is God. From him we receive forgiveness for our many sins, past, present and future. As we receive forgiveness the flow of grace cleanses us and makes us clean. Then, however, the flow must continue as we are forgiving others.

If I stop the flow of grace by refusing to forgive my spouse, or anyone else, the river stops. The flow is halted. The water begins to grow murky as bacteria and germs begin to grow in the still, motionless water. In the same way, bitterness and anger begin to grow in my spirit if I stop the flow of grace. It becomes a bitter pool. I must let the living waters of grace flow by forgiving others even as I have been forgiven. The problem is that we often don't want to see others "get away with it" or "get off too easy." Don't worry about it. Forgiving others doesn't get them forgiven. Each one must present themselves, personally, to the throne of grace. Personal repentance is the only way one can receive true forgiveness. The only thing forgiving others really does is to release them to God for judgment instead of carrying the judgment in your own spirit. It also restores relationship. So, it's really for your own benefit that you must keep the flow moving by forgiving even as you have been forgiven. God cannot pour more forgiveness into a bitter pool backing up with unforgiveness and resentment. He can only pour it into a clear flowing stream. That's why Jesus taught that you cannot be forgiven unless you are forgiving.

Question for the both of Us: How is the flow of grace doing in our marriage? Is the river flowing? Where is it stopped up?

Prayer for the Both of Us: Lord, help us to live in a state of forgiveness and forgivingness. Help us to keep the river of grace moving in our lives

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