

A Marriage Minute™

A simple help to make your marriage just a little better this week.



Love Doesn't Delight in Evil

-1 Corinthians 13:6a

We don't usually think of ourselves as people who would delight in evil, but think about the last time you quietly gloated over someone else's misfortune, or just thought to yourself, "Gee, I'm glad it's not me." Did you delight in the fact that it was someone else's tough luck? When your husband or wife made a mistake, and had to suffer the consequences of that mistake, were you supportive, or did the look on your face say, "I told you so!?" Love doesn't delight in evil. Love mourns over evil. It is saddened by sin. Love doesn't gloat. It hurts with the hurts of others.

Imagine a person falling into a ditch. Finding himself at the bottom, he looks up, and there sees a friend looking down on him. Then the friend says, "Hey Stupid; How did you fall into that ditch? Were you drunk or something? Just climb out. It can't be that hard. I told you not to hang around open ditches anyway?" Then you see Jesus. He doesn't say a word. He just climbs down into the ditch, comes alongside the person and gently helps him up until he's safely out. Jesus is our model. Let's not gloat over our spouses' misfortunes, or rejoice that it's not us, or be quick to pass judgment. Let's simply get go down into the ditch-that's compassion- and gently help each other to recover and find healing. Let's be Jesus to one another.

Question for dialogue - Do I feel supported by you when I fall, or do I feel like you gloat, or are quick to judge me? Do I feel that you delight when I make a mistake?

Prayer for the both of us: Lord, help us to be sensitive to one another's hurts. Help us to remember that we need to make it together. Help us not to delight in seeing each other fall, but help us to be a "lifter upper" not a "put downer."

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This Couples Devotional is brought to you by Marriage & Family Savers Institute. Visit them at www.marriageandfamily.org.

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