

Warring Spouses

The war with your spouse starts the moment you stop loving her as your wife and start loving yourself more than you love her and continue in this attitude. You stop showing the type of love Jesus has for her and start loving her with worldly love. A marriage struggles when worldly love is the attitude spouses have to each other as it is based on different principles to God's quality of Love.

The only way a marriage can really succeed is if you show God's Quality of Love to each other in all you do. Only as The Holy Spirit guides you in all you do will you show this type of love and relate to your spouse as you should.

Do not look at another person of the same sex as Satan will make sure this will threaten your relationship with your spouse.

What happens to your spouse:

When you flirt with another person

Go out with another

Start a relationship with another or

Stop showing God's type of love to them

They feel rejected, inadequate and wonder why you do not do that with them but with another. If they were adequate you would be flirting with them, taking them out and having a closer relationship with them. A wedge is formed in the marriage relationship which if continued will eventually drive the spouse away to protect their emotions.

So if you want to start to destroy your marriage flirt with another, take them out and spend time with them instead of your spouse and stop loving her in the way God loves her.

Hindrance to reconciliation:

The major hindrance to reconciliation is that the love of God is not in the relationship in the way it should be. The relationship has been damaged through fear and/or supposed or real rejection. We are commanded by Jesus to Love (John 13:34-35) and He states that we are His followers if we Love as He commands us too. This is not a discretionary thing. It is a command so we are to do it regardless of the cost to us. This lack of love results in four things that further poison the relationship with God and their spouse:

What happens when Christ is not central to the marriage

We have:

Wrong attitudes and emotions towards our spouse

Anger

Unforgiveness

Bitterness and root of bitterness

Lovelessness

Indifference

Each of these has serious consequences for the person holding them in their heart. It also results in small things irritating them and causing further problems. Often the small things themselves are of no eternal consequence and are used by Satan because of this as they do not raise warnings about them in our spirit.

Deliberate unforgiveness is the most serious of sins as it stops you from going to heaven. Jesus said in Matthew 6:15:

“But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

If you do not forgive others their wrongs against you (sins) then The Father in heaven cannot forgive you your sins and you do not go to heaven. It is not that He will not forgive you but that He cannot as He has to reward you according to your choices and if you do not forgive another he cannot do to you what you have chosen not to do which is to forgive. You also belong to Satan’s kingdom and The Father must let you go when you die to the king you chose to follow.

Bitterness is the next stage after unforgiveness. It will always have a hearing. Bitterness will find reasons to criticise another and results in maligning others and often slandering them and will always find someone to tell these things too. It is gossip in its worst form as it is vindictive. Bitterness definitely ensures you do not go to heaven if the anger behind it is not repented of.

The resultant offence caused toward your spouse ensures that you cannot bring your gift to God, so anything you do is not acceptable to God while you knowingly do not reconcile to your spouse (the person you have offended).

Jesus said in Matthew 5: 23-24 “Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.”

The requirement for you is to try and reconcile. If they do not accept it then it becomes their problem but God can once again accept your ministry (your gift to Him). It is not the success of the reconciliation that restores you but the attitude of wanting to reconcile as in that is the love of God shown and not in the result which is just an expression of the attitude.

Remember that God looks at our heart attitude and not our results.

The marriage covenant is binding. It is made before God and He alone can declare it broken. We are responsible to hold ourselves to the covenant regardless of the behaviour of our spouse and to try and sort out all the problems that arise in the relationship with our spouse. The fact that we follow Jesus as Lord keeps us to this covenant as it is really obedience, in regard to the marriage, of a requirement of His. The fact that a spouse is not keeping their part is irrelevant. We are responsible for what we do with our life and not what they do with theirs.

To break this covenant without His permission is to break the vows you made before Him to your spouse.

Spiritually, there may be no marriage as the other partner had rejected you as their spouse for various reasons. The vows made before God still stand though, unless the other spouse or yourself have committed adultery. The legal impediments of the land need to be removed through divorce though so you can remarry although divorce is a last resort and not desired by Jesus for any marriage. The vows made to God are removed through adultery or remarriage (which is adultery if the Lord has not declared the marriage over).

Not all marriages are put together by God. Many marry without asking God who to marry. God has to allow them their choice but it is not His Will for them. If you definitely know God has put you together as a couple then divorce is disobedience. You need to do all you can to make the marriage a success or it is disobedience also.

Jesus and The Holy Spirit will help you any way they can to reconcile and it is usually through ignoring or rejecting them that divorce results.

Jesus is merciful and if a spouse is too damaged to deal with necessary issues in their life, He will often take them home before they lose their salvation or He will appear to them and give them a choice. He is merciful and not legalistic.

Both spouses need deliverance and healing to be able to relate as they should. I recommend that couples both have deliverance ministry before the marriage vows are taken in order to remove hurts and pain that will cause problems in the marriage.

Unfortunately many do not do this and later in the marriage one spouse usually gets deliverance while the other does not and the problems in the marriage worsen. One suffers while waiting for the other to go through deliverance. The spouse who has had deliverance has the responsibility to pray for the other until they are free of hurts and pain and can relate as they should. If the abuse is too great then the abused spouse can leave (for their own safety) until God deals with their marriage partner or removes their marriage partner from this earth.

The abused spouse is a steward of themselves and the children they have been given so must remove these from any danger they face from their spouse or other until it is past

Sometimes one spouse becomes a Christian and the other does not. The responsibility, then, is for the Christian spouse to pray the other into The Kingdom of God and not nag them into it.

There is a promise in 1 Peter 3:1-6 for a Christian wife who is married to a non-Christian spouse.

How does this war of the spouses begin?

Satan needs to stop communication between the partners so they do not know how they feel about each other. He knows that if they knew their love for one other he could not poison their minds toward each other.

He starts by sowing doubts about whether or not their spouse loves them. Next he tries to make the husband/wife uncertain about their own love toward their spouse so doubt and fears start to occur. Uncertainty about their love occurs and fear of the other partner's motives starts to rear its ugly head. Fear of rejection, fear of inadequacy, low self esteem (fear of being worthless) all come into play and the walls and masks come up. Any attempt at communication with or relating to the spouse is rejected (as it threatens their self-worth), so that each spouse lives their own life and

relates as little and as best as possible or divorce. There may be unrepented anger or unforgiveness at the other spouse which stops deliverance and will prevent the angry spouse going to heaven.

The unforgiveness must be deliberate and not a result of hurts so that they do not realise they have it. God is merciful and understands and it is only for actions we have any knowledge of that we are judged. So if the person does not know they have unforgiveness then God will show them and only after they are shown are they in danger of losing their salvation if they still refuse to forgive.

The relationship becomes stilted and each partner looks elsewhere for fulfilment and meaningful relationships, so adultery or wrong friendships occur. Each spouse devises their own coping mechanisms intended to restore self-worth and to cope with the situation. Coping mechanisms can include hobbies, more involvement in paid or volunteer work, religious service, and other external activities that do not need to involve the other spouse. When hurts are taken into a new marriage, these breakdowns can accelerate quickly and after a short time they wonder what they saw in the other person.

If the emotional hurts are really bad, addictions occur to ease the hurt (sex, drugs, pornography, smoking and alcohol are common ones).

The Right to be offended

If I hold onto my hurts and choose to be offended I am saying I have a right to be offended. Jesus told us that we do not have this right to hold onto an offence and not forgive the person offending us. By holding onto this offence and not forgiving you are really being self righteous and in danger of losing your salvation.

In a marriage, no spouse has a right not to forgive their marriage partner through holding onto hurts or offences. Doing this indicates a 'holier-than-thou' self-righteous attitude which destroys relationship and implies one spouse is better than the other. It also kills love for the spouse as love and unforgiveness cannot exist together.

It all shows the need for deliverance from low self esteem or low self worth that allow this attitude to occur to make the person feel worthwhile so that they can survive as a person.

If you love your spouse you will give up all selfish rights so you can carry out your love for them as Jesus wants you to. Love ignores hurts and pain as it seeks the betterment of the other and the meeting of their needs (not greeds) before their own and any selfish rights they have are ignored to do this.

There is no self-interest in marriage. You are either helping others to realize who they are as a person or serving Jesus and expressing His Kingdom in all you do to your spouse and others.

For a marriage to work each spouse must die to self interest and express Jesus in all they do.

Judging your spouse

James 4:12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

Jesus alone is your judge so you have no right to judge another. All you can do is to say in humility "The Bible says this and as far as I evaluate what you are doing you are not doing what it says."

Then you help them to see what they are doing wrong, how to fix or deal with it and help them as needed. All this is to be done out of love for them and not for any feelings of superiority or control.

You are to deal with them with the same Love Jesus deals with you when you sin.

This attitude also applies to all other relationships we have as God's Love does not change to fit the situation.

Fault finding

If a person loves their spouse as Jesus does, when they see a fault in their spouse they discuss how to deal with it rather than criticise them for it and walk away.

They will determine their part in helping the spouse to deal with the problem and will lovingly support them as they work their way through the problem no matter how long it takes to resolve it.

We are told too:

Gal 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

If deliverance is needed they will help each other in this until they are free from the demons using the fault in the person.

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Healing the relationship

You should never condemn, shame, judge, criticise, pour guilt on, be indifferent to or abuse physically your spouse. This is a definite way to destroy love and marriage, and in really damage people and destroy them as well.

Shame is triggered by guilt (you have failed the standard) and occurs where legalism rules instead of love. If you shame your spouse you need deliverance for perfectionism and legalism and the self-esteem problems that allow these to be present in you. Your spouse will need deliverance from the results of your actions towards her.

Shame is tied up with pride. The person needs to be important and have self-esteem by what they do but they fail so are ashamed of themselves. This also shows a need for deliverance in the person for low self-value, self-esteem and wrong attitudes to service and acceptance of themselves.

When these attitudes occur in a relationship both spouses need healing before the relationship can truly be like it should be. This deliverance should have been done in the betrothal stage and not in the marriage which is why I recommend deliverance be gone through by betrothed people before marriage.

Perfectionism

Perfectionism is a sin.

It denies the Grace of God as well the forgiveness of Calvary

It places a standard on us that God does not place on us.

God does not expect us to be perfect only to wholeheartedly do our best. He knows we are dust and imperfect.

Perfectionism denies this and states that God requires more than this of us. In the Bible, a 'perfect' person is one who lives according to their level of spiritual maturity and not one who does not make a mistake in anything they do. Only Jesus was perfect in its true sense.

We are to use our God given abilities as best we can and trust Him for the result. To do more is to fall short of His requirements which is technically sin.

So do not let the devil convince you to be a perfectionist but to work within that which God allows and expects and trust Him for the rest.

A perfectionist sees all others as inadequate to them and no one can satisfy their standard usually which is why this attitude is so dangerous to a marriage. Their spouse can never meet their standard, will always feel inadequate and unloved and as result will never be able to fulfil their role as a spouse as they should.

Legalism also is a result of perfectionism. Unless things are done their way then you fail their standards.

Problems with apologising

A person apologises for a few reasons:

- They are actually sorry for hurting the person they are apologising too

- To stop the person from attacking them further verbally

- Out of habit as it is the easy way out of a situation

If you apologise for the last two reasons you, the other person or both of you need deliverance in some way.

If you cannot apologise then you definitely need deliverance.

If it is not worth trying to apologise to a person as they will not receive it you must still try but it is obvious that the person needs deliverance.

Problems with apologising usually do with:

- Fear of rejection

- You feel so inadequate or unworthy you do not believe it is worthwhile even trying to apologise

Pride

In a marriage where love is supreme there should be no fear of apologising as there is no fear of rejection by or being unworthy to the other person.

There is no fear or pride in love! Only selfless service for the benefit of another as the Love of Jesus is expressed through your life.