

Marriage Struggles

By Steve Stutzman

Marriage is the primary building block of society. It is the only institution that is residual from a perfect creation scene in the Garden. Not only does it have meaning in itself, but it carries a tremendous typological significance toward Christ and the Church. Because everything that God builds on earth is built with this building block, Satan's efforts at destroying it increase as the end nears.

People often feel that their marriage is hurting, or troubled. Actually, there is no such thing as a hurting or troubled marriage. There are, however, an abundance of people who are wounded in some form or another- and are also in marriages. This creates scenarios where the pain of the hurting spouse is brought to bear on the other partner.

Is YOUR marriage stressed?

Perhaps the first step in healing marriages is to identify the pain centers. (this is NOT to be a fault-finding, blame game) Start with the reactors, the triggers: what sets him/ her off? What brings about the explosions, or silences, or moodiness? There is usually a cause, a commonality of sorts, in the circumstances that surround the unpleasantness. Can you see that happening in you, or in your spouse?

Then ask this: What am I doing that irritates the pain center in my spouse? Or, what are they doing that irritates the pain in me?

Exercises and questions like these require an intense honesty, if they are to be helpful or profitable. They also require you to understand that you did not wake up this morning severed from all your past experiences. Pain, difficulty, and wounded responses in current life are all related to the past. Many times, these questions also require the intervention of a third party, because of the emotion level behind them.

The pain centers- emotional triggers- need to be processed, and laid to rest under the Blood at the Cross. You may think you have already done this, but if the responses continue, the roots are still present.

We invite you to attend one of our seminars where we tackle some of these deep needs in marriages, and lives in general. We also recommend looking into resources about the basic needs of men (respect) and women (Love, security). See especially the book LOVE AND RESPECT by Eggrich. [LINK-Amazon]

Is someone you love hurting in Marriage?

We cannot make decisions for others, no matter how much we care about them. We cannot change them, or force them to listen. We CAN love them. We can listen. We can encourage them to see their own side and

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responsibility in the dilemma. We may be able to help someone else see where the basic needs of a spouse are not being met.

You may consider sponsoring the cost for them to come for counseling or a seminar. You may also give literature to them that will help them see root issues in their lives, but please do so very prayerfully and carefully; these types of issues can be extremely painful, and deeply damaging if trifled with.

FAQ

Q..... Why can't my husband see our marriage is on the rocks? Why doesn't he do something?

A..... Because men are relationally challenged. Remember, also, that men cannot do two things at once very well, and may be focused on something else. Further, he may be immunized against being told he is a failure.

Try this- purpose in your heart that for three months, you will do whatever it takes to make him feel respected. Toward the end, begin asking him every evening if he has honestly felt respected that day. You will very likely get his attention.

Q..... Why does it seem like my wife always has to be "right"?

A..... Primarily, because she doesn't feel safe and secure enough to let down her guard. There can be many reasons for this.

Also, many women have no idea how damaging this is to the male ego. Some may have even been taught that catering to this ego is foolish. But whether she does it knowingly or unknowingly, it is probably not her intention to crush you.... That was not a dream she held in her heart as a bride.

Q.....What if I just made a mistake and married the wrong one? What if I am not in love anymore?

A..... No. Not possible. A man and a woman have what they need to not only co-exist, but thrive together. Their differences can become strengths, and the wounds of the past become platforms of ministry to others. There is a God.

You did not FALL in love, and you cannot fall out. Love is not a feeling, it is a commitment that causes a feeling. Love is an unconditional commitment to the well being of... You vowed that commitment, and what are words, if they have no meaning?