



MARRIAGES: DEALING WITH SIN

*"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you." (Eph. 4:32)*

Marriages get misaligned when we deal wrongly with sin and temptation. Accept that your and your spouse's lives will be filled with sin. Happy marriages resolve sin quickly.

1. DO NOT POSTPONE

Postponing reconciliation wastes time, provides opportunities for more sin that accumulates to make things worse, robs us of joy, and promotes lying (pretending). Make every effort never to split up with sin unresolved. Do not allow stubbornness to delay apologies that, in your heart, you know are due.

2. PRACTICE GENUINE CONFESSION & REPENTANCE

A godly apology is restitution; offer and receive them as such. Godly apologies do not make excuses or justify – they apologize for what was done and ask for forgiveness. The one apologizing is to confess their own sin, not their partner's. How to know if it's a godly apology? Godly apologies restore good fellowship. Bad apologies fail to.

3. PRACTICE GENUINE FORGIVENESS

As a Christian, forgiven by Christ for all of your sins, you have no right not to forgive. We can be hurt, mad, and frustrated – yet we forgive. Failing to forgive transfers the burden of sin from the original offender to yourself. Forgiveness does not mean we are immediately ready to trust the person again or that all our intense emotions are dispelled. It does mean they do not owe us anything more to make it right.

4. BE CAREFUL ABOUT YOUR PUBLIC FACE

Do not let other people into your normal marital conflicts. Do not go out in public with unresolved conflict. Do not invite people into your home with unresolved conflict. Do not have sex with unresolved conflict. Yes, these constraints are difficult to keep; that's why they will help you to confess and forgive more quickly.
