

3 FOLD CORD

Building Lasting Marriages on a Firm Foundation

Weekly Devotional

WEEK TWO -

A Daily Dose of Forgiveness

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV)

The first place to start if we are going to do things according to the Word of God is to forgive, after all, that is where each of our relationships with our heavenly Father began, through forgiveness of our sins. It's the best place to start in our marriages as well.

If you have yet to say I do, or have spoken it years ago, the need for forgiveness will be of uttermost importance. Whether it be it a forgotten birthday, or having been late for a date, the issue of forgiveness is one that will pop up regularly if we are to make it to the growing old together stage of our happily ever after. The Bible tells us in Romans 3:23 that, we have *all* fallen short of the glory of God. We have all missed the mark at times and if we are going to live a long and happy life together, we will have to establish from the very start that we will be willing to both ask for, as well as extend forgiveness towards one another on a regular basis, sometimes daily. Daily you say? yes!

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Jesus tells us that we are to be willing to extend forgiveness up to seventy times seven! That's a lot of forgiveness! (See Matthew 18:22). Jesus loved *us* so much that He laid down His life for our flaws, failures, and sins and did so *while we were still making them*. That's love in action!

If we are to ensure lifelong marriages, we will have to be willing to suffer our spouses' shortcomings and flaws with likeminded love *and die to our flesh "daily"* and extend forgiveness. Romans 5:8 tells us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for the ungodly. That tells me that no matter the offence, as Christ followers, we are to take up our cross and follow His example. When we do, we lay the foundation for our marriages to stand the test of time *and* of trials for years to come. A daily dose of forgiveness goes a long way towards growing old together gracefully.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8 (NKJV)