

Forgiveness: The Foundation of Marriage

Luke 17:3-5 - *So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. 4 If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him." 5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"* NIV

- **Marriages possess the most severe hurts because of the nature of the relationship.**

Ps 55:12-14 - *If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were raising himself against me, I could hide from him.13 But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend,14 with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship as we walked with the throng at the house of God.* NIV

- **Only those you care about can hurt you. The higher the expectations, the greater the fall.**

WALLS OF PROTECTION IN THE MARRIAGE

Suffering marriages become more and more *self-seeking* and *independent*

- **A one-sided marriage is destined for failure.**

Prov 18:19 - *It is harder to win back the friendship of an offended brother than to capture a fortified city. His anger shuts you out like iron bars.* TLB

- **Unconditional love gives others the right to hurt us.**

THE REFINING PROCESS

Isa 48:10 - *See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.* NIV

1 Peter 1:6-8 - *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith-of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.* NIV

- **Guilt, oppression, and unforgiveness easily hide where there is no heat of trial or affliction in a marriage.**

Giving and accepting of forgiveness within the trying times of marriage will undergird your marriage more than anything else.

- **Most marriages come to themselves by awakening to their true condition.**