



Secrets to a Successful Marriage

Principle number Eight

Know the Boundaries

Many people get married with the illusion they can just be themselves and say and do whatever they feel like saying and doing. You will soon find out that behavior comes with at a great price of misery and pain. All of us have a sin nature; the Bible calls it the “flesh”, to content with. All of us have wisdom running through our minds that is selfish and self-centered. If you yield to the wisdom of your flesh it will always, one hundred percent of the time, produce death. If you are going to be happy in your marriage you must use self-control when dealing with your spouse. Always speak to them with respect. This will not come natural to you. You will have to make yourself do it. Many times it’s just best not to say anything. Many people believe that this is my house and my life and I will do and say whatever I want to do. You will soon find out that this way of thinking will destroy your marriage and your life. There are some areas in your marriage that are off limits. It may be your husband’s mother is off limits. It may be that religion is off limits, or politics, or touching your spouse in a certain place or time is off limits. I know this may not seem fair but it is for the best. Some things that may be off limits now will not be later on in the marriage. Sometimes God has to heal that area of your spouse’s life before you can touch it in conversation or physically touch it. You can know what is off limits by the reaction you get when you touch that area or subject in your spouse’s life.

Some people just love to aggravate their spouse. I am all for a little friendly aggravation, but when it makes your spouse angry or really frustrates them you have crossed the line. It may be funny to you but it tortures your spouse. Show some compassion, have a little respect, and stop it. You can also take scaring your spouse too far. I’m all for having fun but know where the boundary is and do not cross it. You will know when you have crossed the boundary by the response of your spouse. And don’t have the attitude, “They’ll get over it.” If you continue to cross the boundary you will do serious damage to your marriage.

If there are areas causing problems in the marriage they must be confronted and dealt with. I encourage you to seek the Lord and ask Him for His wisdom how to confront and deal with it. If it is an area in your marriage that is a boundary and it is not causing problems leave it alone. For the sake of peace don’t touch it. Leave it alone.

Once you touch a boundary or cross the line the best thing you can do is immediately back off and then apologize to your spouse. Let them know you respect them and always forgive them when their reaction is negative and hurtful.

A Time to Reflect

1. What are areas in your marriage that are off limits?
2. Do you have the attitude you can just do and say anything you feel like saying?
3. Do you aggravate your spouse until they become angry or frustrated?
4. What are some things you do that cross the line?
5. Are you willing to stop touching the boundaries out of respect for your spouse?