



Marriage Growth-Track

Week 9 - Day 2

Truth and Love

by Chris and Amanda Watson

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

The framework for a Christian marriage requires that we place no conditional expectations upon one another for the very reason that we have been given the unfathomable, and completely unconditional love of Christ ourselves. This is what we see in this verse:

- Treat each other lovingly;
- Offer forgiveness freely because you have first received it from Christ

Marriages built upon a foundation of truth and love set themselves on a course to achieve marital excellence. But like all deeply rewarding experiences, this is considerably easier said than done: it's challenging for those of us with a Christ-based belief system and nearly downright impossible for those without one.

But that's where Jesus comes in.

When we stop to consider how utterly completely (and undeservedly!) we have received Christ's forgiveness everything we've ever done, it makes it a whole lot easier to pass this forgiveness on to the one person who has pledged to love us forever, doesn't it? When we keep in mind that Christ is the benchmark against which we are to judge how/when/why our forgiveness is granted to others (in lieu our fair-weather feelings), it frees us up from concocting revenge, plotting retribution, or harboring resentment when our spouse disappoints or hurts us.

We are called to answer to Christ and to act as He commands us. In other words, be liberal with your forgiveness to others and liberal with your gratitude for your forgiveness.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you expect your spouse to do for you?
2. Do you treat your spouse lovingly when they do not meet your expectations?

Action Steps:

Make a list of what your assumptions and contributions of your role in marriage and share them with each other.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we are so thankful for your love and grace. We ask you to open our hearts that we may be able to show compassion and forgiveness to one another. We also ask for your protection to guard against those things that do not bring honor to each other.