



Places In The Father's Heart

That reach out and touch, to bring times of refreshing...

Refreshing Times

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Rebellion vs. Healthy Boundaries In The Marriage Relationship

By Roger

For the spouse who feels controlled or dominated by their mate, let me say, this is not God's intent for the marriage relationship. This can be religion and/or self-centeredness at work. Your heavenly Father never intended marriage to produce a demeaning, or devaluing environment for either spouse. On the contrary, I believe God's intent has always been for a man and a woman to come together and work hard at love, honor and respect for each other. Let me also say that if you are being or have been victimized by your spouse, rebellion to your circumstance will only compound your problem. By rebellion I mean if you develop an angry, judgmental and critical spirit toward your spouse, you will deepen your problem. Whether you outwardly show your rebellion or not makes no difference. This is an attitude of your heart that can increase strife and separation in the relationship. If you have developed a rebellious attitude in your situation, let me encourage you to get with a prayer partner and repent, asking God's forgiveness. At some point, you must also forgive your spouse. You may have to begin that process of forgiveness by going to your prayer partner and your heavenly Father and asking for their help, encouragement, and strength to be able to forgive. Each situation will dictate its own resolution. James 5:16.



Let me suggest that setting healthy boundaries is a much better option for a spouse being victimized by domination and control. Saying 'no' to abuse, to dishonor and disrespect, to domination, manipulation and control is not rebellion. Setting healthy boundaries must not be born out of pride and rebellion, but out of your realization that you are a child of the Most High God and you deserve to be treated with love, honor and respect. You must also realize that you cannot expect love, honor and respect if you are not willing to give love, honor and respect. If you have developed an attitude like 'I'll change if and when you change,' your future is dim. To correct abusive situations, both the predator and the victim must change if there is to be complete resolution in the relationship. As difficult as it may be in many situations, the victim must press their situation to crises if there is to be any hope of change. Please realize that if a person is the victim of physical, sexual or severe emotional abuse, they must have professional intervention including law enforcement. They should never attempt confrontation on their own. If you have been severely abused by your mate, get out and get help. If you have been threatened, do not continue to live in fear. Get out and get help.

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Roger & Gerri

Prayer Ministry

Healthy Boundaries

Do you allow others to control and manipulate you?
 Do you struggle with saying 'no' and meaning it?
 If you do not set healthy boundaries in your life, someone else will.
 Find freedom, peace and rest in the Lord by setting healthy, Godly boundaries.

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Appointments

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The road to reconciliation requires a toll.

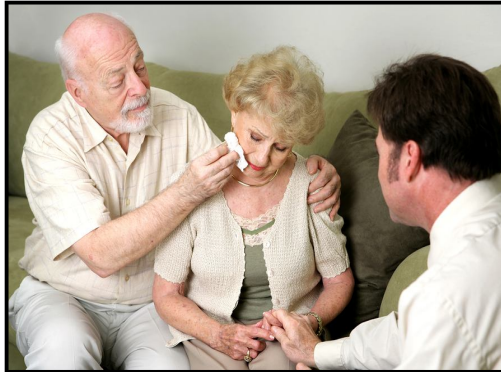
Rebellion vs. Healthy Boundaries In Marriage ~ by Roger

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This is part of setting healthy boundaries. This is part of saying 'no' to abuse. The purpose is to stop the predator in his tracks and require change. The second purpose is to free the victim and encourage change on their part as well. Predators and victims alike must have a change in attitude about themselves. They both must be convinced that their actions are unacceptable; that includes the victim.

Unless the victim's woundedness is healed and their strongholds broken and their sin repented of, they will continue to draw predators to themselves and remain victims. This is also true of the predator. Unless their woundedness is healed and their strongholds broken and their sin repented of they will continue to draw victims to themselves.

So you see, simply divorcing from a bad situation and moving on without change in yourself will leave the spiritual dynamics in place that brought you into the unhealthy situation in the first place. Godly professional counsel can help willing predators and victims find and experience a true life of love, affection, and acceptance that is available in Father God. The experience of life and love that God created for the marriage relationship is much, much bigger than most of us have experienced, yet they remain available to us all. This is another reason why setting healthy boundaries is so important. Could it be difficult for a person to recognize love, honor and respect if they seldom or never re-



ceived love, honor and respect? You bet it can be. And that is predator and victim alike. That is why outside help is usually essential. New life is available to all who are willing to pursue it. Expressed love is essential to life. God planned it that way, but we are not all free to receive love. Because of our woundedness, many of us have closed our hearts to love and intimacy. Remember I am talking about Christians and the marriage relationship. If we cannot first receive love, then what capacity would we have to give love? In talking about predator and victim, can you see that if a person is either, they demonstrate by their actions that love hunger is an issue? Love hunger has a tendency to blind us to our own sin against love and also blind us to other people's need for love. That includes our spouse and our children.

So remember, setting healthy boundaries is a wise decision. You need to be wise in setting and enforcing those boundaries. This is where outside, unbiased help can play an essential role. Unbiased help is the key here. If your best friend is co-dependent with you, the advice they give may not be the best advice. Please consider pastors, mentors, prayer ministers, counselors and spiritual parents when establishing and enforcing healthy boundaries. The word of God says, "Where no wise guidance is, the people fall, but in the multitude of counselors there is safety." Proverbs 11:13-15

Blessings,

Roger

The above article is taken from Roger's new eBook

The Heart of Marriage ~ Hope For Tomorrow

Available soon.

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Marriage is not so much finding the right person
as being the right person. Unknown

Focus, Focus, Focus ~ By Gerri

Worry. Anxiety. Fear. Torment. Despair. Depression. Difficulties. Disappointment. Delays. Daggers. Darkness. This month we have seen a rise in all of the above emotions, personally, throughout the ministry, nationally and internationally. It is very difficult to find much of anything positive in any news media. Of course, in an election year, we rarely find positive news coverage. Add to that the current governmental financial problems and you have politics and money screaming for attention! Many are asking, "God, what is going on?" I cannot answer that question for others, but I would like to share with you what Father seems to be saying to me personally in hopes that you will find some encouragement.

Marsha Burns of the Spirit of Prophecy Bulletin had a word on September 22nd that really spoke to my heart. The Lord spoke through her and said, ***"Rejoice in the opportunities that I will present for you to come face to face with your attitudes and motives, says the Lord, for you will be able to deliberately choose your responses rather than react instinctively. You will be able to experience the expressed difference between walking in the Spirit and yielding to the lusts of the flesh..."***

The time and season we are in is going to require us to walk more each moment of every day directed by the Spirit of God. Those who have put off learning this principle are going to find themselves experiencing very toxic emotions like the ones listed above.

Marsha's prophecy went on to say, ***"For those who have trusted Me and have heard My voice, I say that I will honor your obedience and will bless and establish you in your going out and your coming in; in your rising up and your sitting down. For I am bringing you to a higher octave in your gifting and calling that will resonate in the spirit realm with greater power and effectiveness than you could have imagined, says the Lord."***

For those who have learned to spend time in true intimacy with our Father—and I mean significant, meaningful times with Him—peace and rest will be His portion regardless of what the political and economical conditions are around us.

For these difficult days, we need to press hard into Psalms 91. We need to be hiding under the shelter of His wings. This is the only place we will be safe from the devil's wiles against us and hear clearly the Father's voice of instruction. We need to develop tough skin from the daggers thrown, sometimes even from our brothers and sisters in Christ. Remember the Body of Christ is the only army that kills its walking wounded! What a sad commentary.

Prophetically, September is typically a month when a significant reconciliation with God can be accomplished by all believers who are seeking that reconciliation. It is, therefore, a

time when the enemy will work hard at trying to discourage and defeat us in every area and especially anytime we make attempt to be more intimate with Him. Many will begin to question their relationship with Him. Many will say, "God where are you?" Doubt, fear and unbelief will become our captors if we are not on spiritual guard.

Here's where my focus is directed. First, I am pressing in harder and much more often to Him; remaining in constant communication with Him, always asking Father what is your direction and will here? Ever wonder why some times you cannot sleep? Perhaps it is the Holy Spirit awakening you in the night hours to seek Father's face for the direction and peace you are seeking.

Secondly, I am sowing in times of famine! When difficult times come financially it is NOT the time to cut back or stop your giving to the Lord. It IS the time to carefully take stock in where you are sowing. Ask yourself the question, "Am I just sowing where I always sow, or Father do you have another place where you want me to build Your Kingdom with my finances during this season?" Make certain that you are sowing into ministries that are building the Kingdom and that are walking in integrity with their finances. If not, your seed is being sown in fallow ground and your harvest will be scant!

Thirdly, it is imperative that we listen to what Father is telling His sons and daughters about getting out of debt. He has been speaking this clearly now for several years. Listen up. The financial world is sending a clear message all around us. God's kids need to be financially free from the world and laying up our treasures in God's Kingdom of finance. If you don't know what that is, ask Him. He will show you. I can assure you, His Heavenly Room of Finance is full and there is a never-ending supply. It is stored up for His sons and daughters to draw upon in times of earthly famine if we have obediently sown into His Kingdom.

Lastly, I am sowing in time of famine all the gifts and talents I have. I am ever mindful that every encounter I have with another person is 'having church!' From shopping in Wal Mart to answering a phone call, whenever I connect with another person, it is 'church time' and I make an effort to sow into that opportunity. You can too! This is the REAL church!

Beloved, if you are experiencing worry, anxiety, fear, torment, despair, depression, difficulties, disappointment, delays, daggers, or darkness, I challenge you now to re-focus on Father and sow into His Kingdom. Make an effort and realize that if you focus on the negative you will reap the negative. If you focus on Father and building His Kingdom, you will walk in peace regardless of the conditions of the world around you! He will bless you and establish you and honor your obedience. He will lift you up into a realm of greater power and effectiveness—just like He promised!

Be encouraged!

Gerri

Worry redirects
your emotional
energy away
from God and
weakens your
spirit.

Thank You & We'd Like to Hear From You ~

We would like to take this opportunity to thank and honor those who are Support Members with Places In The Father's Heart. It is your faithful, ongoing financial support that helps us carry the message of Father's love to the nations. New Support Members are always needed to expand the measure of the ministry. Information on how you can send a secure love gift can be found on our website on the Support Link.

We would like to hear from you. Please feel free to share your prayer requests, your pain and hurts, your victories and your glory stories. We welcome your testimonies of how the Father's love has touched your heart and changed your life. Take a few minutes and email us your stories today. Be sure to tell us if we can use your name or if you would prefer to remain anonymous should we publish your testimony. This is a wonderful way to minister to others.

Blessings in the Father's love,

Roger and Gerri

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TO:

Jesus is the way... Father is the destination!