

Displaying God's Mercy in Marriage

Family Room Jan 18, 2008 CG App. Questions

Getting the Conversation Started:

1. Can one or two of you briefly describe an experience where you received mercy from someone else? What was the effect of that experience on your life?

Considering God's Mercy To Us:

2. What did you learn about the Father's mercy from Dave's message?

Being Merciful, Like our Father:

3. Dave said in his message, "*How I relate to others in their sin reveals my true grasp of the Gospel.*" As you consider the last time your spouse sinned against you, how clearly or deficiently did you display the mercy that God has shown to you in Jesus?" (Did you respond sinfully or with mercy?)
4. In taking what you've learned about God's mercy, how can you begin to apply it to your relationship with your spouse? What changes do you now see are needed?
5. Obviously being merciful doesn't mean we never bring correction. But what are the ways we can demonstrate mercy while bringing concerns? What impact might this have on your spouse's response to and experience of correction?
6. Mercy comes into play when there is human frailty, weaknesses that are not sinful but can irritate. What are the areas of weakness in your spouse where you can extend mercy by learning to laugh as opposed to responding in anger?

Optional:

7. Which of the following 'courtroom questions' best describe your temptations to sin in the midst of conflict?
 - Am I self-confident that I see the supposed 'facts' clearly?
 - Am I quick to assign motives when I feel I've been wronged?
 - Do I find it easy to build a case against someone that makes me seem right and him or her seem wrong?
 - Do I ask questions with built-in assumptions I believe will be proven right? Or do I ask impartial questions – the kind that genuinely seek new information regardless of its implications for my preferred outcome?
 - Am I overly concerned about who is to blame for something?

A Question for you to discuss with your spouse this week:

Think about some of the common "trigger points" for conflict in your marriage. What are ways you find yourself responding in a sinful manner? How can these moments become opportunities for demonstrating the beauty of the gospel? What are specific responses that would show mercy and concern for your spouse's relationship with Savior?