

FORGIVENESS A Human Experience

Love means frequently having to say you're sorry. Forgiveness is a fundamental human experience. It calls us to recognize and accept the reality of our humanness. It also calls us forth to begin again. The forgiveness experience is so basic that the Bible presents many such accounts to impress the point upon us. Marriage calls us to approximate the forgiveness and love of God as best we can. We are called to make forgiveness and love part of the ongoing process of all our relationships.

To help you better understand forgiveness between you and your future spouse, answer the questions below and share your answers with your future spouse.

1. How have you experienced forgiveness in your life? Be specific and include how you felt when you were forgiven. _____

2. What were the rituals or patterns of forgiveness you saw between your parents?

3. How do you express to your future spouse that you are sorry? _____

4. What makes it difficult to apologize? (Talk about the feelings you have when you apologize.)

5. How do you receive apologies from your future spouse? _____

6. What are some of the shortcomings that you struggle with? (Identify these specifically.)

7. What makes it difficult to verbalize these shortcomings to your future spouse? (Write about your feelings and the results you expect if you were to talk about them.)

