

Saying “I Was Wrong” Can Transform Your Marriage – Part 2

By **Authentic Intimacy** - Thriving Marriages Email - January 25, 2023

Moving Toward Maturity

Often, we try to hide the obvious fact that we are human, sinful, and fallen. Why am I embarrassed when I can't remember someone's name? Why do I deny the fact that I get grumpy and can be difficult to live with? Why am I offended when someone points out the negative qualities I know to be true about myself? Maturity means accepting your faults & limitations while rejoicing in God's grace that he loves you & uses you in spite of yourself. Learning to be honest with your faults & failures can impact your life in 5 significant ways.

1. You can only change what you are responsible for.

When you blame others for your circumstances, you are a victim of their choices. When you step up and own your contribution, you can do something to improve things. If the problems in your marriage are 100 percent your husband's fault, you're helpless. But if you own your piece of the dysfunction, you have power to make a change in your marriage.

2. God gets the glory for every success.

When you are open about your failings and limitations, others around you can give glory to God when good things happen. For example, the more aware I am of my failings as a mom, the more grateful I am for the Lord's work in my children's lives. When my children thrive, I know it's not because I'm such a great mom; it's because He is such a gracious God.

3. Confession is contagious.

We avoid asking for forgiveness because we think it will give the other person a free pass for their part in the issue. But, when we are honest & repentant, we the Holy Spirit may convict the other person. Defensiveness is contagious and so is confession. Like a game of tug-of-war, when you let go of the battle of blame, the other person is stuck holding the rope.

4. You don't have to pretend anymore.

How much emotional energy do you spend trying to convince everyone (*including yourself*) that you have it all together? Just get it out there . . . “I'm an anxious person.” “I have a short temper.” “I'm forgetful.” “I'm a sinful, fallen human being, but I'm asking God to change me.” It's actually freeing!

5. You're growing up.

David wrote, “*Let the godly strike me! It will be a kindness! If they correct me, it is soothing medicine*” (Psalm 141:5). Taking responsibility for your mistakes is not a sign of weakness but an indication of great inner-personal strength. A major benchmark of emotional and relational maturity is the ability to admit fault and even ask for constructive criticism.

Our unwillingness to acknowledge our faults is a serious illness within the body of Christ. Whether it is disagreements between denominations or within a marriage, saying “*I was wrong*” creates a humble heart that allows the Holy Spirit to work in and through us. Our stubbornness and defensiveness grieves the Holy Spirit and prevents his work from creating deep love and unity among God's children.