

Dancing (or Tripping?) Through Life Together

"Dance with the trinity." That was the challenge I accepted from Larry Crabb when I attended a School of Spiritual Direction several years ago. What a beautiful image that phrase inspired: God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit first urging me to listen to their rhapsody of music in the depth of my spirit, then leading and empowering me to follow them, one step at a time. I visualized myself spinning effortlessly around the dance floor, like the ballroom scene in "Beauty and the Beast." It was a glorious plan – until I returned home to real life, a real husband, and the real me!

Though I am blessed with a man who also seeks to dance with the trinity, he would agree there are many times we inadvertently step on one another's feet and trip one another up as we seek to weave our unique individual dance sequences together into a graceful waltz. (Anybody else out there have sore toes?)

Here are a few basic reasons we step on our spouse's toes even when we are trying not to:

1. Opposites tend to attract. (No surprise to you, huh?) This is why it is hard to understand and anticipate each other's auto pilot dance moves that are simply part of who we are.
2. Few of us truly know our own unique, God-given design and purpose well enough to explain it to our spouses.
3. Few of us take time to ask questions and listen in order to learn our spouses' unique, God-given gifts and purpose. Only then can we find ways to encourage and affirm them.
4. We each have a tendency to put our own perspectives, priorities, needs and desires ahead of our spouse's. (Ever heard of sin nature?) We all prefer to lead the dance, not follow.

We honor God in our marriages when we acknowledge, accept and affirm whatever unique dance steps "choreographer" God has in mind for each of us to perform in life. This is not an easy task. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Meaning of Marriage*, "Marriage is glorious, but hard." And yet, I encourage you to choose to make the effort to dance well together. It is only after 45 years of marriage that Rod and I are waltzing together more than tripping one another up!

May God teach you how to synchronize your dance steps so that others see Him in you as a couple.

Stay linked to the Lord and one another!
Charlene Giles, Director of Care and Marriage

P.S. To learn more about the next dance step God is teaching me and Rod, go to couplescoaching.info.



Questions over coffee!

Turn to your spouse and say these words with deep meaning, "You are more than enough for me just the way you are." (Repeat daily for optimum effect.)

Don't Miss This...

Watch for information about a 9:15 Sunday morning Learn 2 marriage class beginning in March, 2017!

Blended Family Corner

Anger and unresolved emotions from the previous marital breakup often lead ex-spouses to criticize each other in an effort to gain loyalty from their children...Do what you can to be Christ to anyone in the other home—even if he or she is extremely negative. You may not be able to effect any practical change in an ex-spouse, but don't be guilty of not trying. Ron Deal in *The Smart Step-Family*

Wit & Wisdom

- Remember...whatever you do or think over and over will get hard wired and become automatic. Repeat the right things! (Dr. Henry Cloud in *The Daily Dr. Cloud* email)
- The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. (Galatians 5:6b NIV)
- Sign outside Lititz PA Moravian Congregation, "Don't let your marriage become a duel instead of a duet." (from *The Joyful Newsletter*, July-August 2016)
- Those who believe that everyone has a God-given dream just waiting to be released will see a world full of wonderful potential. (Wayne Cordeiro in *Dream Releasers*)

Check this out...

HELPFUL WEBSITES

www.family.org (Dr. James Dobson and Focus on the Family)

www.instepministries.com (for single parents & blended families)

www.familylife.com (Dennis Rainey and Family Life Today)

RealRelationships.com (Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott)

www.cloudtownsend.com

Support Couples Corner

Next supervision meeting is Tuesday, February 28, 2017 from 6:30-8 pm in room 2820.

