

Marriage 101 Parent/Spouse Dynamic

- 1. Ed spoke of the TV show “The Profit”, and in the show there was a husband who admitted to “punishing” his wife. If you are married have you ever felt punished by your spouse? If you are engaged to be married, have you ever seen this type of behavior in a marriage? Talk about what you feel led to that dynamic, and what was its impact.**
- 2. When you look back at the marriages that you have witnessed in your life, can you point to the Parent/Spouse Dynamic playing out? In what ways do you see it creating dysfunction in those marriages?**
- 3. When Ed listed the symptoms of this dynamic, do you feel you can see them playing out in your relationship?**

Demearing interactions

Financial control

Lack of discernment in decisions

Unrealistic expectations

Blatant disrespect for you or your spouse

Inflexibility

Explosive anger towards you or your spouse

- 4. Do you ever use these phrases or phrases like them to describe your relationship? “I am raising a child”, or “I am always walking on eggshells”. Can you talk about why you use these phrases with your spouse? If not, why not?**
- 5. When you read 1 Corinthians 13:11, what behaviors of childhood do you need to move on from?**

1 Corinthians 13:11

¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

6. Grade yourself on these descriptions of a “mature love”. Rate 1-10, 1 being totally immature, and 10 being completely mature. Why did you rank yourself that way?

Patient
Kind
Does not envy
Does not boast
Is not proud
Does not dishonor spouse
Is not selfish
Not easily angered
Does not keep record of wrongs
Does not delight in evil
Values the truth
Protects
Trusts
Hopes
Perseveres

7. Now work through that list again and grade your spouse.

Patient
Kind
Does not envy
Does not boast
Is not proud
Does not dishonor spouse
Is not selfish
Not easily angered
Does not keep record of wrongs
Does not delight in evil
Values the truth
Protects
Trusts
Hopes
Perseveres

Look over the following areas and ask yourself, where in these areas am I acting childish, or parental towards my spouse?

- 1. Money**
- 2. Hobbies**
- 3. Work**
- 4. Children**
- 5. Communication**
- 6. Sex**
- 7. Intimacy (being open and honest)**
- 8. Time**
- 9. God**
- 10. Church**