

Teachable

Open, willing, and ready to learn



Teachable is a *critical* component of a health marriage. *No one* is the perfect husband or wife; *no one* knows everything about marriage, relationship or even about their spouse. Changes in life; physical, emotional, spiritual, or otherwise affect every person and as we all go through life, our spouse changes - we change! Marriage is a life-long learning experience and if we are not open to learning; if we are not teachable, life will be much more difficult than it has to be. Proverbs 11:5 tells us; “The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.” We need to be willing to listen, learn and improve; how we think and behave. Being teachable is not weakness, it is a strength; the wise person is teachable.

Author James Richards wrote: “The wise learn by instruction, the slow learn by correction, the foolish learn by consequences, the selfish never learn.” We have a choice; are we going to be open, willing and ready to learn, or are we going to learn the hard way? Being teachable requires humility; it requires being open to the many ways the Lord our God will use people or circumstances to teach us - whoever or whatever those might be. We must listen well to hear what others say; what might the Lord be teaching us through this person speaking to us. Ephesians 5:21 comes to mind; “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Out of a reverence for Christ, we are to honor, serve and care for each other. It means truly *hearing* what the other person tells us rather than getting defensive. This applies to both husbands and wives! As Christians, in humility, we are to stop hear our spouse and look to the Lord about whether this is something we need to change in our life.

Are you *teachable*? Are you open, willing, and ready to learn? Are you willing to change? It is not always easy and certainly not always fun. My wife has the Spiritual Gift of exhortation. I usually don’t really want to hear when she points out shortcomings in behavior, but it is always beneficial - if I will stop and consider what she has to say. The challenge here is to humble ourselves rather than letting pride or selfishness get in the way of hearing our spouse, or someone else, and being willing to change.

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

The *Fortified Marriages Manual and Workbook* is a great tool to help couples grow together in intimacy and move toward the oneness God desires for their marriage.

Article to check out:

Developing a teachable spirit in marriage By Drs. Michael and Kendra Holmes - Houston Home Journal