

It Depends on You

As we celebrate our nations independence this July, we continue to marvel at how truly blessed we are as a nation. Our independence provides us with a daily freedom and liberty that many people in other nations continue to fight for to this day. George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it." When you have liberty, you have the freedom to influence your future. That influence will happen whether you exercise your freedom with wisdom or irresponsibility.

When a couple becomes married, they declare their independence as a new union. That new union has the freedom to influence the future of their marriage. That freedom can also be exercised with wisdom or irresponsibility. As we have talked with struggling couples over the years, we rarely encounter someone that expresses how their personal actions are causing problems in their marriage. It is amazing how it always seems to be the other spouse that is the source of all things destructive in the relationship. When asked what can be done to "save" the marriage, the answer is often not well received. The answer....it depends. It depends on you! What are you willing to do? How far are you willing to go?

Scripture calls upon us to do whatever we can do in order to live at peace with others. This is not to diminish the responsibility of others to also change in positive ways. It instead helps us focus on what we can control....our self. If you are struggling in your marriage, ask yourself if you are doing everything you can to do. This needs to be a truly honest assessment. Are you praying for your spouse? Are you still showing them love, compassion and sincerity? Are you serving them? It may be hard, but don't forget that Christ loved us and died for us when we were at our worst. He set before us an example to follow. If you want a strong and healthy relationship, remember that they are defined when times are rough, not when they are easy.

Blessings,

Brian and Trudy

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."
- Romans 12:18