

WEEK #15

When In-Laws Cause Friction - The Solution

One of the most difficult elements of the in-law relationship is that a spouse may feel torn by their loyalties. This often triggers deep anger, resentment, and broken or damaged marriages. Yet, God has given us a divine roadmap to navigate these often-rocky relationships. We can either add to the pressure our spouses feel with in-laws, or we can lessen the pressure by cultivating peace with our in-laws. In other words, we can be used as a trigger or a testimony.

In-law stereotypes are stereotypes for a reason. Often portrayed as caricatures by the media, these relationships can lead to real-life pain. If this has been the issue for you, choose to spend your energy on protecting your marriage and being an example of Jesus' loving-kindness toward your in-laws. Pray for wisdom about healthy boundaries. Ephesians. 4:29, 31-32 reads:

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen...Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate one to another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

As Christ-followers, we can't please everyone all of the time. But when we focus on pleasing the Lord, blessings will follow. Even in the midst of challenging relationships, we are not helpless or left to figure things out on our own. God is the ultimate relationship expert. Choose His way of relating to others, and as previously stated, blessings will follow.

Next week - When Your Life Looks Different Than You Thought It Would - The Problem