

Storybook Sex

Trouble in Paradise

1. Honeymoon Phase – I do
2. Disillusionment Phase – What did I do?
3. Commitment Phase – different, but one. Love not just a feeling.

Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean, but abundant crops come by the strength of the ox. - Proverbs 14:14 Good couples fight fair. Bad couples fight dirty. Side note: Church. Alright, let's get back to our married couple and see what we can learn from their fight.

1. BOTH PARTIES FEEL HARMED

2. CHANGE OF HEART

You cannot force someone's heart to change.

Don't nag...let God work. Never met a guy who was nagged into changing. Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. – 1 Peter 3:1-2

Don't threaten.

3. REACH OUT TO MAKE AMMENDS

She begins to think of all his good qualities (pure motives, handsome, wise, respected, gentle, compassionate, and spiritually strong. Forgotten. Covered up.

Both have to take a step.

4. COMMUNICATION

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. – Proverbs 15:1

- Don't confront publically (your kids count as the public)
- Don't say never or always. Those are unfair buzzwords.
- Don't get historical (bringing up things that happened years and years ago)
- Don't bring family into it
- Don't fight when you're unusually stressed
- Don't make important decisions when you are upset

5. FORGIVENESS

In Song of Solomon 6:4-7 (we won't read), they begin to compliment each other again. They didn't forgive and file. It's not forgiveness if you keep bringing it up and hold it against the other person.

6. GREATER CLOSENESS

But where sin increased, grace abounded all the more. - Romans 5:20