



CHAPTER 15

Acceptance

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("Rafe")

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Cover design: Paul D. Refior ("Rafe")

Third Printing: 2005

Printed in the United States of America

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It's Your CHOICE – Acceptance

ACCEPTANCE

You are not perfect and your spouse is not perfect. It is all too true that you have faults and that your spouse has faults. It is undeniable that you have weaknesses and that your spouse has weaknesses. In light of these facts, you can **CHOOSE** to do certain things about it. If you have a fault, then before the Lord and in love of your spouse, you need to try to correct the matter or improve in that area. If you have a weakness then try to get stronger in that area to the extent that you can through effort, education, etc. Yet for all your effort - no matter how sincere - neither you nor your spouse will reach perfection. Some things cannot be changed. Where does that leave us?

It is time to be at peace about the matter and to **CHOOSE** to ACCEPT your spouse the way he or she is even knowing of faults, imperfections and weaknesses. **CHOOSE** not to dwell upon those weaknesses. **CHOOSE** instead to dwell upon, enjoy, and even celebrate the strengths, positive qualities and beauties of your spouse. **CHOOSE** not to chafe or become aggravated every time some fault or weakness comes to the surface. **CHOOSE** to give that to the Lord. **CHOOSES** that you will love your spouse the way he or she is and that you will not condemn him or her. **CHOOSE** not to become angry with him or her. **CHOOSE** to decline to try to take out the speck in the eye of your spouse until the beam in your own eye has been removed. (Luke 6:41-42).

Then enjoy the freedom of it. Two imperfect people who are not in any way griping or nagging at the other to change. Do not be ashamed that you are not a perfect “10.” Be happy that your spouse can **CHOOSE** to ACCEPT you as **you** . . . and you **CHOOSE** to accept your spouse as herself/himself. Be content that your spouse is not a perfect “10” either. Give your spouse the joy of knowing that you ACCEPT your spouse as who he/she is.