

# Your Wife Is Flawed, But Then So Are You

You and I just don't get to be married to someone perfect. It seems obvious enough, but many people get married with unrealistic expectations about whom they are marrying.

Here's the point: you both bring something into your marriage that's destructive to your lives. That thing is called sin.

Most of the troubles we face in a marriage aren't intentional or personal. In most marriage situations, you don't face difficulty because your spouse intentionally did something to make your life difficult. In moments of anger, that may happen.

But most often, what's really happening is that your life is being affected by the sin, weakness, and failure of the person you're living with. If a wife is having a bad day, that bad day will splash up on you in some way. If a husband is angry with his job, there's a good possibility that he'll bring that anger home with him.

Now, when your ears hear and your eyes see the sin, weakness and failure of your husband or wife, it's never an accident—it's always grace! God loves your spouse, and He's committed to transforming her by His grace, and He has chosen you to be one of His regular tools of change. So, He'll cause you to see, hear, and experience your spouse's need for change so that you can be an agent of His rescue.

These are precious moments of ministry, but we tend to turn moments of ministry into moments of anger. Rather than serving God's purpose, we tend to personalize what is not personal. For example, at the end of his bad day at work, a husband doesn't say to himself, "I know what I'll do. I'll take my bad day out on my wife so that her day gets as wrecked as mine."

But here's what happens next: when you personalize what isn't personal, you tend to be adversarial in your response. What motivates you is not the spiritual need in your spouse that God has revealed, but your spouse's offense against you, your schedule, your peace, and so on.

What should be your response in a moment of ministry (for my spouse) becomes a response in a moment of anger (against my spouse). Rather than wanting to minister to your spouse, what you actually want to do is get them out of your way so you can go back to whatever was engaging you before.

When we respond in an adversarial way, we actually escalate the trouble that the other person splashed up on us. This leads to one more thing: we settle for quick situational solutions that don't get to the heart of the matter. Rather than searching for ways to help, we tell the other to get a grip, we attempt to threaten them into silence, or we get angry and turn a moment of weakness into a major confrontation.

Even during the best of times, you'll experience the sin, weakness, and failure of your spouse. It's inevitable—you're married to a flawed person. But on the cross, Jesus Christ has provided everything you need to respond in a godly way.

What response will you choose?

**Dr. Paul David Tripp** is a pastor, author, and international conference speaker. He is the president of Paul Tripp Ministries and works to connect the transforming power of Jesus Christ to everyday life. Paul lives in Philadelphia and is hopelessly in love with his wife, Luella. They have four grown children.

For the original article, visit [.](#)