

## Choose Love

“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins.” 1 Peter 4:8

After receiving a tearful invitation, I went to meet a friend who was struggling with her feelings. She needed a friend’s ear and perspective. In the parking lot of a grocery store, we sat in her car while I listened to her dilemma.

Through her sobs, this young wife and mother shared that she was no longer happy in her marriage – her second marriage. She previously struggled through a teenage relationship that wasn’t meant to be. After spending time as a single mother, she was swept off her feet by a man, overwhelmed by his love not only for her but for her son as well. She entered that relationship viewing him as a knight in shining armor.

Now, she identified his flaws. The armor was tarnished, dented. Her complaints were valid, of course, but also very human. He spent too much time with the guys. He didn’t like spending time with her family. He used bad language around the children. I think he left the cap off the toothpaste too.

After listening, consoling, and considering her struggle, I asked one question: Do you want to stay married or not? She appeared shocked by my question.

My pastor had recently shared something life altering in a sermon. Instead of praying for a new spouse, pray for the one you’ve got. The things that were driving my friend crazy were annoying but not the end of the world. Her husband had not done anything immoral or abusive. He had a good job and was a hard worker. He wasn’t lazy. He was good with the children. He just wasn’t ideal in her eyes anymore. His armor had definitely lost its shine.

Think about it though – real knights go into battle. They get dirty, dinged, and damaged by their foe. In life, we all get dirty, dinged, and damaged in one way or another.

Realizing this, the focus of our conversation that day shifted to the idea that the ideal doesn’t exist. Love is a choice. You can be determined to find flaws and focus on

what's wrong or you can choose love. We each have the opportunity daily to make up our mind to be happy.

For my friend, she could choose to love him or not. Flaws and all. There are no perfect people. At any time, we could choose to *walk away* or choose to *walk alongside* through the good and the bad.

We all have a choice.

As you walk through life, remember 1 Peter 4:8 states, " ... love covers a multitude of sins." Not just the sins of others – your sins too.

Think of those closest to you. They choose to love you.

Their love for you allows \_\_\_\_\_.  
Forgiveness. Reconciliation. Compassion. Understanding.

When you allow your love to cover others you create more space for \_\_\_\_\_.  
Good times. Laughter. Happiness. Joy.

The next time you look at that friend, spouse, significant other, or even that stranger that cut you off in traffic ... "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins."

You have a choice.

Choose love.

Dear Lord,

I am so appreciative that you allow Your love to cover the multitude of sins in my life. Thank you for placing people around me who love me. Flaws and all. Grow my heart, Lord, so that my love overflows covering the people close to me and those I come into contact with each day.

Amen.