

ONE UP OUTDOING OTHERS IN LOVE

On Episode 75 of the "More Than a Song" podcast, I used Casting Crown's song, "Broken Together" to lead us to sections of Scripture that give us insight into building strong relationships (especially relationships with our spouses). I asked the question, "What if, instead of waiting to respond to extravagant acts of love, we tried to proactively outdo one another in love? "

The key to allowing God to change our minds is to RESPOND to His Word, not just read it. So, today's activity is to list positive relationship characteristics as found in Ephesians 5 and/or Philippians 1:27-2:18. After making the list, ask God to show you the ONE characteristic you will choose to "outdo" others you are closest to. Circle that characteristic and pray for God to give you opportunity to display this characteristic proactively whether or not you receive a response in return. Remember, extravagant love is the goal...your giving it, not necessarily your receiving it.

Example List of Characteristics:

1. fellowship
2. tender heart
3. compassion

Example Prayer Response:

God give me opportunity to show sincere compassion for my husband. May I clearly see his areas of suffering and deep concerns that I may join him in these concerns, praying for Him and calling on You for wisdom on his behalf. May I make it a priority to listen carefully to his brief descriptions of his day and discern where I may ask probing questions to get to the bottom of his deepest concerns to be the best helpmate I can be for him.

Now, it's your turn!

Make a list!

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Write a prayer!