

You commented in your talk a while ago (January 16th) how it is better to have a marriage where a couple can scrap and fight together than one where a wife or presumably a husband just gives up because the other person is just not interested. I know in my own marriage there have been times when 'the fur has flown' but I also know, sadly, that I have reached the point now where I just do not bother to raise issues that could cause a scene.

Maybe, I sound like a coward or even not committed to make it work and I have stopped and asked myself those questions since listening to your talk. I have come to the conclusion that if a partner is not interested in moving forward, working at the deep level a relationship needs and facing the challenges that it will bring forth then there is nothing that you can do about it. We cannot make someone else's choices for them.

The challenge, of course, is how do you live with that situation and can you make it work so that your beliefs and principles do not get lost or tainted. I believe the answer is yes but I also know that it is not easy. There have been times when I have wanted to walk away or just bang my head on the nearest wall. I have been driven to distraction and frustrated beyond measure. I am a person who likes things resolved and to me a shrug of the shoulders or a dismissive leave me alone attitude can leave me in one great big muddle.

I have had to work to make sure that I do not get devalued in the daily processes of life. One of my biggest failings is to turn things back on myself – what if I had done this, that or the other perhaps it would have been different. I have asked myself on numerous occasions what if I had been a different type of person would that have helped. The truth is that whatever I did things would be exactly the same because it is not my choices that have left me where I am today.

I am beginning to realise my true value from the Lord and His people. No, life will not be easy because I have a relationship that falls very short of what I would have wanted and what the Lord designed. Sometimes, I will be overcome with sadness for 'what could have been' but I know that the Lord knows and He is more than sufficient. I can be true to myself and to what I believe - I can stand tall as an individual and live my life in the freedom that the Lord gives us all.