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Your License Has Expired Part 2

By Mark Gorman

I've learned that children who grow up in a home in which there is constant strife and turmoil, tend to be emotionally unstable, because there was no consistency in their home, other than the predictable, consistent battle between Mom and Dad.

So, when you make a concerted effort to become a better spouse, whether you realize it or not, along the way, you'll also become a better parent, and you'll raise children who have a better sense of security about who they are. This produces a healthy self-image, which will help them to relate to others for the rest of their life.

When we have a healthy self-image, we aren't paranoid, worried that someone else is "out to get us", or that someone else will "take my place". Instead, when we feel good about who we are, we can be more generous with others, allowing them to flourish, and even celebrating them, because we don't approach all new relationships with a paranoid attitude, assuming that they must have some ulterior motive, and they're really trying to take advantage of me. Instead, we can get to know people in a healthy way, without feeling threatened by them.

And, isn't it amazing that a great part of what gives a child a healthy self image, is a healthy home atmosphere, where there is love and acceptance, and everyone sincerely tries to relate to each other, and to understand each other? But, since none of us were born knowing how to relate to others, the only way to be "good at it" is to first, admit that we are not good at it, so we can then become teachable, and learn, which enables us to improve in the way we relate to other people.

One of my life mottos is "Always be a student".

To be a student, you must first admit that you don't know everything. Because if you're one of those obnoxious "know it alls", then you don't even see the need for you to learn any more than you "think" you know.

So, if we are willing to say that we do NOT know it all, and that we are willing to learn, then we approach each day with an open mind. It doesn't mean that we become so naïve that we believe everything that we hear or read, but at least, we realize that every person on earth can teach us something, whether they are older or younger, they all know something that we don't know. And, if we approach each new relationship with that attitude, we will likely learn from that person. And, as you know, one of the greatest compliments we can give to another human being is to "edify" them by acknowledging that we want to learn what we can from them.

Well, I can promise you that, at the Valentine's Marriage Getaway, Gina and I will NOT act as if we know it all and you don't. We fully understand that we are still in "process", and that none of us is a "finished product" yet.

But, we have learned some things along the way which have helped us in our marriage. And, as we have encountered others who have needed help with their marriage relationships, Gina and I have been able to help many, many couples to understand each other better, and to build a stronger marriage, which resulted in stronger families, and happier, more well-adjusted children.

So, I hope you'll join us for the 2008 Valentine's Marriage Getaway. It's only a few weeks away, but you can still register to join us for this great time!

And I know that some marriage seminars seem to be a drudgery, very tedious, and clinical. But hey, have you met me? Do you know me? I'm Mark Gorman!

And guess what? The very first couple who registered for this year's Marriage Conference is a couple who is known to many of you. It's Boudreaux and Clotilde!

So, if Boudreaux is gonna be there, ma friend, you know we're gonna "pass a good time"!

We will have a lot of fun – laugh a lot – and learn a lot.

Don't miss it!

Remember, your marriage license is different than other licenses. It definitely does not prove that you "know what you're doing"! Ha! We are proof of that!

That's why Gina and I are never embarrassed or ashamed to tell others that we have received marriage counseling, and that we are continually seeking to improve our marriage, and our entire family.

It's such a compliment when people come to us and say, "I want to have a marriage like yours. And I want our children to be like Kenneth and Sarah. I want to have a family like yours."

And Gina and I never take that for granted. It is a very high compliment for people to say that to us.

And we're very grateful that, although we started out as AMATEUR SPOUSES and then as AMATEUR PARENTS, we have remained teachable, and we try to always be ready to say, "I was wrong. I'm sorry".

Believe me, the worst thing you can do as a parent, is to try to pretend that you really do know everything, when your children can clearly see that you DON'T!

One of our favorite things in the world is that Kenneth, who is now 24 years old, and Sarah, who is 20, both come to us, regularly, to ask our advice about everything in their lives. And trust me, you can't "require" that your kids ask your advice at age 20 and 24! They must WANT your advice!

And, just a few weeks ago, Kenneth did just that. As usual, he came and sat on the foot of the bed, to have one of those "chats" with us. And this time, it was to ask if it was the right time to "pop the question". He wanted to know if we felt that the time was right for him to ask Krista to marry him – to begin a life together.

What a blessing, to have our children ask our advice about things like this! We feel so blessed to be "invited" to play such a pivotal role in each of their lives. And I do mean that we are invited, because you can't push your way into the private life of a 24 year old. You must be invited.

Well, I'm sure you know that this was not the first conversation we'd had with Kenneth about Krista, in terms of marriage. But now, he wanted to know if the time was right. And we both agreed.

So, as we all sat around the bed, with our handsome 24 year old son, we discussed his plans to begin a new life with this wonderful young lady, who truly is the answer to our prayers.

And, shortly after Christmas, Kenneth drove down to Galliano, Louisiana, south of New Orleans, on the bayou, in Cajun Country. He first sat down with Rev. & Mrs. Duane Malone, Krista's parents, to ask for her hand in marriage (without Krista's knowledge). In other words, the way we've taught him to approach this is to respect authority and spiritual covering. So, before even suggesting marriage to Krista, he first asked her parents for their "Blessing", and their permission to ask their daughter to marry him.

After they gave him their blessing, he then took Krista to a restaurant in New Orleans. (Again, even with the restaurant selection, he asked my advice. I can't tell you how

blessed I am, for him to want my advice, and to invite me into his life!)

I suggested a classic, romantic New Orleans restaurant, in the middle of the French Quarter, Brennan's. In fact, Brennan's is known for a world-famous-dessert they created many years ago, Bananas Foster. When he made the reservation, Kenneth told the Maitre d that he was going to be proposing to Krista.

When they arrived at Brennan's, they were seated at a private table in a romantic corner setting. After their meal, he got down on one knee, and asked her to marry him. She cried, and said "Yes". Then they had dessert, prepared table-side. In addition to the Bananas Foster, which Kenneth had ordered, the restaurant also gave them a second complimentary dessert, Crepes Suzette, also prepared table-side.

Afterward, Krista called our daughter, Sarah, on her cell phone and said, "You have a wonderful brother!"

One of the greatest blessings to us was that, in addition to asking for our input regarding his marriage to Krista, Kenneth also invited Sarah's input as well. I'm so happy to tell you that Sarah loves Krista like a sister, and is excited for her to become a part of our family. And, as I'm sure you've figured by now, Gina and I love Krista very much. In fact, I recently told someone that, if Kenneth hadn't proposed, Gina and I were probably going to propose to Krista ourselves, because we are so eager to have her as a part of our family.

Oh well, please forgive me for having my fun, telling you about Kenneth's engagement. But this is just one more confirmation of what I truly believe, that no matter who you are, we all need "help" when it comes to marriage.

Kenneth and Krista have made it very clear, that they invite our advice and counsel in their marriage, as I'm sure they will feel towards Krista's parents as well. We are so glad that they don't have the "cocky, arrogant" attitudes of so many young people, who think that they really do know more than their "ancient" parents.

But, instead, they realize that they need counsel and help with their marriage, so they invite it. In fact, as they drove home from the restaurant, Kenneth called my parents, to tell them about the engagement. (Over the years, Kenneth has seen how Gina and I seek counsel from my parents, so it was somewhat of a foregone conclusion, that he, too, would seek counsel from Poppa and Nanny.) In fact, he had asked their "blessing" before ever asking Krista to marry him.

When they spoke on the phone, Krista took the phone and told my parents, "You have such a wonderful grandson!"

What a blessing!

Anyway, have you decided to come to the 2008 Valentine's Marriage Getaway yet? If

not, do I have to come there myself and shake you up a bit? Ha!

Seriously, don't miss it. We're gonna have an AWESOME time!

Not only will we discuss some of the ways to understand each other better, but we'll also teach on the importance of communication, and exactly what communication is. We'll also teach on the physical aspects of the marriage relationship. (Gina does most of this part of the teaching. Men, trust me, you want your wife to hear what Gina will be teaching about the sexual relationship in marriage! Just trust me! You want her to hear this!!)

And, just in case you are thinking that you'll just get the CDs later, to hear what we teach at the conference, NOT ALL of the recordings will be available to anyone. Some of the more "delicate" aspects of the marriage relationship, which are taught by Gina, are not available in recorded form after the event. This is Gina's rule. She says that if she knows that she's being recorded, and that any number of people will hear these recordings, she won't feel as "free" to say what she really feels about this subject.

So, if you don't attend, you will MISS OUT!

Here's how to register:

Call 615-591-5900

Online - go to <http://markgorman.com/ValentinesMarriageGetaway2008.htm>

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