



NewsLetter

Jean-Michel Etienne, Ph.D.



APRIL 2023



Identifying the Danger Zones in Your Marriage.

How would you characterize your marriage relationship? Is your relationship in a relatively good place, or are things a little shaky?

Do you see any danger signs that trouble you?

"A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it" (Prov. 22:3).

How do you know if you are entering a danger zone?

1. When you are not best friends. The loss of friendship between a husband and wife is a very subtle and dangerous situation. Many couples who drift apart know that something is missing in their relationship, but most can't seem to identify why things seem so cold and superficial between them. A good indicator that a couple is entering this danger zone is when a husband declares, "She has closer relationships with all her girlfriends than she does with me." If your marriage has lost this closeness, what should you do to rekindle the enthusiasm and friendship?

Take these steps:

- (a) Acknowledge to your spouse the distance you see in your relationship and ask his or her forgiveness for allowing the separation to occur.
- (b) Begin by praying together that God will turn your relationship around and rekindle the excitement for each other again.
- (c) Do your first works over again (Rev. 2:4- This is what Jesus told the church to do when they had left their first love.

2. Little or no spiritual relationship. The lack of real spiritual relationship between a husband and a wife is one of the greatest danger zones because of its effect on every other aspect of the marriage. If you realize that you lack spiritually, what should you do?

Take these steps:

- (a) Begin to personally study God's Word and attend a local church on a regular basis where you can be taught the Bible.
- (b) As you read the Scriptures daily, share with your spouse the things that you are learning.
- (c) Start praying with your spouse over your personal and marital needs.
- (d) As a couple, look for opportunities to practically serve others together. Make time for these things and you will naturally grow together spiritually.