

## What do I do, how do I respond to betrayal (mine or others)? It depends . . .

### Love Confusion

**Unrequited love**—intense, but unwarranted, attachment to someone that compels one to stay together without consciously sorting through the decision..

- “But I love him/her.”
- “God hates divorce.”
- “We’re meant to be . . . we’re perfect for each other . . . this was a freak occurrence.”
- “I can’t live without him/her.”
- “My needs are secondary to doing the right thing.”

**Romantic love**—willingness to ignore core values for an intense, but unwarranted, attachment that makes one feel passionately loved.

- “I feel so strongly, it must be right.”
- “I never loved my spouse anyway.”
- “My spouse doesn’t understand me.”
- “My friends are so judgmental and prudish!”
- “I deserve to have my needs met.”

**Unrealistic expectations of love**—partners should meet our needs and even anticipate them; there should be no conflict; chemistry is either right or wrong; partner should be emotionally available at all times; if I’m not happy, it is my partner’s fault; when passion falters the relationship is over; I deserve to be loved.

**Disenchantment**—a normal stage that can lead to a more mature love relationship or will fuel the fire of betrayal

### Hosea’s Story

When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, "Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness, because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the LORD." So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. <sup>1</sup> Then God ordered me, "Start all over: Love your wife again, your wife who's in bed with her latest boyfriend, your cheating wife. Love her the way I, God, love the Israelite people, even as they flirt and party with every god that takes their fancy." I did it. I paid good money to get her back. It cost me the price of a slave. Then I told her, "From now on you're living with me. No more whoring, no more sleeping around. You're living with me and I'm living with you." Hosea 1:2-3, 2:1, The Message

*The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. I will praise the lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:6-8 NIV*