



How to Deal With Your New Relatives: Your in-Laws

IMC Marriage Workshop Part V



In-Laws Are a Blessing

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ مِنَ الْمَاءِ بَشَرًا فَجَعَلَهُ نَسَبًا وَصِهْرًا وَكَانَ رَبُّكَ قَدِيرًا

- And He is the One who created man from water, then made of him relations created by lineage and relations created by marriage. Your Lord is All-Powerful. [Surat al-Furqan, 54]

Blessings of In-Laws

- ❖ Think positively about in-laws
- ❖ Parents of your spouse
- ❖ Rights of parents
- ❖ Everyone loves their parents, similarly the spouse loves their parents

Blessings of In-Laws

- ❖ Circle of Influence Framework
- ❖ It takes a village to raise a child
- ❖ Loving caretakes

No One is Ever Completely Happy

أَمْ لِلْإِنْسَانِ مَا تَمَنَّى

Is it that man can get whatever he wishes? [Surat al-Najm, 24]

إِنَّهُمْ لَنْ يُغْنُوا عَنْكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا

They will never help you against Allah in the least. [Surat al-Jathiyah, 19]

Relatives You Didn't Choose

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "Do you know who is the bankrupt?" They said: "The bankrupt among us is one who has neither money with him nor any property". He said, "The real bankrupt of my Ummah would be he who would come on the Day of Resurrection with Salat, Saum and Sadaqah (charity), (but he will find himself bankrupt on that day as he will have exhausted the good deeds) because he reviled others, brought calumny against others, unlawfully devoured the wealth of others, shed the blood of others and beat others; so his good deeds would be credited to the account of those (who suffered at his hand). If his good deeds fall short to clear the account, their sins would be entered in his account and he would be thrown in the (Hell) Fire". (Sahih Muslim)

Etiquettes With In-Laws

- ❖ They are parents, so must be honored
- ❖ After marriage, the husband has most right over the wife
- ❖ After marriage, the husband's parents and wife both have rights over him
- ❖ Wife shouldn't be expected to serve them. If she does, this is a sadaqah from her, and will attain great reward

Where to Live?

أَسْكِنُوهُنَّ مِنْ حَيْثُ سَكَنْتُمْ مِنْ وَجْدِكُمْ وَلَا تُضَارُّوهُنَّ لِتُضَيِّقُوا
عَلَيْهِنَّ وَإِنْ كُنَّ أُولَاتٍ حَمْلٌ فَأَنْفِقُوا عَلَيْهِنَّ حَتَّىٰ يَضَعْنَ حَمْلَهُنَّ
فَإِنْ أَرْضَعْنَ لَكُمْ فَآتُوهُنَّ أُجُورَهُنَّ وَأَتَمِّرُوا بَيْنَكُم بِمَعْرُوفٍ وَإِنْ
تَعَاسَرْتُمْ فَسْتَزِيعٌ لَهُ أُخْرَىٰ

Where to Live?

“Provide to them residence where you reside according to your means, and do not hurt them to straiten (life) for them. And if they are pregnant, spend on them till they give birth to their child. Then if they suckle the child for you, give them their fees, and consult each other (for determining the fee) with fairness, and if you create a deadlock between you, then another woman will suckle him.”

Bond with Each Other's Families

- ❖ It's a gift to your spouse when you blend in well with his parents and siblings.
- ❖ Befriend them, give compliments, ask how their lives are going, and smile.
- ❖ This is a big one, and it can be especially challenging if his relatives gave you a hard time during the wedding.

Drop Old Issues

- ❖ We all have scars and damage from our previous days and from our families, but don't use an old fight as a weapon in a new one. It's unfair to throw unresolved issues at one another
- ❖ Drop those sensitivities by avoiding hot button issues that you've already discussed (and hopefully resolved).

Drop Old Issues

- ❖ Maintain privacy and dignity

هُنَّ لِبَاسٌ لَكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ لِبَاسٌ لَهُنَّ

- ❖ They are apparel for you, and you are apparel for them. [Surat al-Baqarah, 187]
- ❖ Share only important and necessary things with in-laws
- ❖ Oversharing can lead to misunderstandings and problems
- ❖ Husn al-zann
- ❖ Beware of gheebah (backbiting)
- ❖ Don't play lawyer