

Forgive Him, Forgive Him Not

In a survey I recently conducted I asked over 100 women: **“If your husband/boyfriend is responsible for getting you really upset. What is the one or only thing he can do to get your forgiveness?”**

Well, women stopped at nothing to express exactly what they expect from their mates. One woman said she literally puts her foot down, since the only thing her guy can do to get her forgiveness is to take her shoe shopping. While there were quite a few interesting responses, the most common were: a mate saying “I’m sorry” and really means it; and, a mate showing how sorry he really is by buying an extravagant gift.

A few women were primarily concerned with the reason that led to their mates having to ask for forgiveness. They strongly believed that a barrage of “sorry” and “gifts” would not fix a broken problem, but understanding the offense instead, is a start to earning forgiveness. Some suggested that time or therapy would fix the problem, while others concluded, “Payback would be a b**ch.”

There was a single response I found to be the most enlightening. It was from a woman who’s been married for over 17 years. She supported all of the aforementioned, noting that she and her husband have been through an enormous amount of trials, which only made them stronger in the end.

In no particular order, here are a few of the most provocative responses I received.

1. “Apologize sincerely.”
2. “To get my forgiveness he needs to really show me that he understands "why "I am angry. He needs to let me know that he has really thought about whatever was done to make me angry and why what was done is not ok. As a woman, his woman, I want to know that my opinion counts and that he takes my feelings into consideration. If what he has done is purposeful, he would have to make me understand why he chose to do what he did to get my attention. I have to really believe that he wishes to communicate and not just say whatever he needs to say to get me past the point of anger.”
3. “A sincere apology normally works for me, and he has to ask for forgiveness, then we’d have to openly discuss what led to the disagreement in the first place...”
4. “Actions speak louder than words...A person can say, "I'm sorry" and not mean it. How many times have you heard those words only to be hurt again? I say, "Don't tell me you are sorry, show me...”
5. “When my fiancé tells me that he is sorry, he truly means it. He also gives me head-to-toe body massages and fries me a mean Porgie!”
6. “Merely saying "I'm sorry" won't cut it, especially if it was a repetitive behavior. To get my trust, he would have to demonstrate that he would not repeat that behavior. Example: Let's say he uses the Lord's name in vein, which I would have an issue with. He could say I'm sorry, but in the future, refrain from ever using the Lord's name, knowing it offends me.”
7. “I have been with my husband for 17 years and married since '99. I do not think that there is much that I have not dealt with during our years together: infidelity, women threatening me, loss all our money, but we are stronger for it all, but trust he had to apologize with his mouth and his credit cards.”
8. “Take me to the spa for the day and end it with kisses and love.”
9. “If my husband got me upset, the only thing that he would need to do to make amends is to acknowledge and apologize. Sincerity is key!!”