

*Keeping It*

**Hot**

Marriage Retreat



# Liar Liar

*Hiding the truth from  
yourself and others.*



Keeping It  
HOT



Smart photos and social media has brought a new dimension to communication. They are challenging our views about privacy and secrecy.

There use is forcing couples to  
redefine the meaning of  
boundaries.

In some relationships the use of  
social media or smart phones are  
causing more pain the pleasure.

Do you have a right to lock your phone so your spouse cannot use?

Should you have a secret password to your emails, etc.

Can your spouse read your emails or text messages without your permission?

Is **WhatsApp** a pain in your butt?



In marriage, are there any secrets?

In marriage, is confidentiality important?



Privacy?

In marriage, is there anything that is private?

“Withholding information, activities, or behaviors from your intimate partner that involves you as a person or the relationship, is the practice of secrecy. This should not be practiced.”

Barrington H. Brennen

“Secrecy builds walls between two partners.”

**Abe Kass**, *Marriage and Family Therapist*

Secrecy destroys relationships.

“Emotional and relationship health requires both times together and time alone. Healthy marriages blend seamlessly and harmoniously private time and group time.”

“Privacy is not the same as secrecy. A measured amount of privacy is needed for personal health. How much privacy is needed varies from person to person.”

“Privacy would include closing the bathroom door to avoid embarrassment, withholding sexual fantasies that might hurt the feelings of one's partner were he or she to know what they were, or withholding an unnecessary opinion to avoid conflict. ”

“The line between secrecy and privacy is not always black and white. Each couple needs to sort out the grey areas. Being discrete can be good or bad for a relationship. For example, is causing a minor scratch to the car and not deliberately announcing this fact common sense or is it deceit (secrecy) or is withholding negative results of a minor medical test to protect a spouse from unnecessary worry secrecy or common sense? Each couple must feel their way through these "grey areas."

# Privacy Vs. Secrecy

Marriage Mission International

- “PRIVACY is something you ‘give’ someone out of respect. SECRECY is something you ‘withhold’ from one another.”
- “PRIVACY is when you want to go to the bathroom or pick your nose without your spouse looking – or try to buy them a gift without them knowing. SECRECY is when you feel guilty about something that you can’t tell your spouse.”
- “PRIVACY in marriage is your own personal space. In this, there is trust and respect. The other partner is aware of this space & respects it without intrusion. We all need a little private time to ourselves; otherwise we’d go nuts! SECRECY is destructive in marriage – it’s a lack of trust and respect. This is something the other partner is unaware of, and in essence, it’s a lie.

# Privacy Vs. Secrecy

- PRIVACY is having some quality time or spiritual time alone. SECRECY in a marriage can be a form of deceit.”
- “PRIVACY is the withholding of info concerning yourself, the disclosure of which would be of no benefit to the partner, and which you don't wish to share. SECRECY, on the other hand, is the withholding of info that may have an effect on the well being of the partner. This effect may be financial, spiritual, physical, or mental. PRIVACY is acceptable. SECRECY is not.”

How do you apply these principles to cell phones, emails, social media, wallets, purses, money, etc.?

Should I give the  
passwords for my  
FaceBook, email,  
cell phone,  
WhatsApp to my  
spouse?



Should your spouse have to demand that he or she receives the passwords?



“Should I care if my husband won’t give me his phone password?”  
By Geoff Steurer, Marriage and Family Therapist



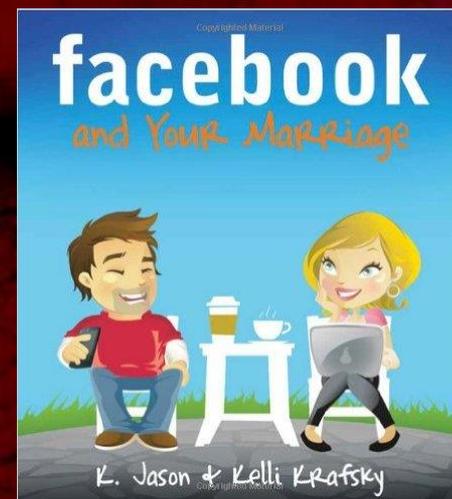
“ . . . . You are feeling insecure in your new marriage because your husband is essentially telling you that you’re not welcome into part of his life.”

“Knowing you have access to both (*the passwords*) creates more security and safety in marriage.”

Jason and Kelli Krafsky, authors of “Facebook and Your Marriage” make the following suggestion:



“Share your username and password with one another. Transparency is crucial to ensure trust in a committed relationship. Exchanging login information provides accountability and emotional security for both of you.”



# Transparency

*Can be seen right through.*

Honesty: *Always telling the truth*

Openness: *Volunteering the truth*

“A spouse should not have to ask for passwords. Neither should there be any reason to withhold passwords.”

Barrington Brennen

“I do not look into my wife's purse.  
On the other hand I am not  
prevented from looking in it.”

Barrington Brennen

“When a spouse find clandestine texts in one’s partner text messages, that partner looses the privilege of privacy. It would have to be regained over time.”

Barrington Brennen

“Should I care if my husband won’t give me his phone password?”  
*By Geoff Steurer, Marriage and Family Therapist*



“Healthy marriages are built on the secure knowledge that our spouse is accessible and responsive to us. Having access to each other’s lives does provide more security, even if we don’t always know everything our partner is reading, writing, or saying.”

*“Should I care if my husband won’t give me his phone password?”  
By Geoff Steurer, Marriage and Family Therapist*



*“In fact, the more you’re shut out from your husband’s life, the more you’ll want to know in an effort to know you’re safe in the relationship. Hopefully he can see that the more access you have to his world, the less need you’ll have to see everything he’s doing.”*

Johns 15:15 *New American Standard Bible*

"No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.

Proverbs 6:16-20

There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, **a lying tongue**, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers. My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching.

Proverbs 10:9

Whoever walks in integrity walks  
securely, but he who makes his ways  
crooked will be found out.

# Let's work *Write down*

1. List some items you feel fall into the category of secrecy.
2. List some items you feel fall into the category of privacy.
3. List some items you feel fall in the grey area.
4. If your were to discover your partner behaving with secrecy, how would you feel?
5. If your partner were to discover you behaved with secrecy, how do you think he or she would feel?

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