

Dominant vs. Domineering

The two terms, Dominant and domineering, are often misused and mistakenly considered interchangeable. In the first instance, a Dominant is part of a consensual relationship dynamic in which there are certain expectations and responsibilities (unique to each relationship).

An important feature of that lifestyle is that it's mutually gratifying and fulfilling. In other words, a submissive is equally happy and satisfied in their role in the relationship as is the Dominant.

Those that are domineering do not recognize the consensual nature of relationships, nor appreciate their partner's need to be pleased and fulfilled within it. People that are domineering are selfish, and serve their own interests exclusively. It's sad to think that being overbearing, loud and demanding might be confused with being Dominant, but that's often the case.

Dominants differ from the domineering as it relates to their expectations of how others should view and treat them. Those that are domineering may "demand" things like respect and trust, even from strangers. Whereas a Dominant would expect that such qualities are given over time to the deserving.

Similarly, Dominants value those that serve them. They know the worth of submission, and the great strength it takes to submit. By contrast, domineering people expect submission as if it were owed to them (though, anything "taken" non-consensually is likely to be abuse). Submission holds no value to the domineering, it is simply a matter of taking by force what they desire.

It's always important to recognize that Dominants are humans. and as humans they make mistakes. That's unavoidable. Dominants have the self-confidence to face their mistakes; to

own up to them, admit them, apologize for them and make things right. Those that are merely domineering often do not admit mistakes. They portray a facade of perfection that in and of itself is not credible (or possible). They do not make amends, nor apologize in some mistaken belief that "Dominance" is "never having to say you're sorry".

Don't fall into the trap of confusing domineering with Dominant. As a Dominant, be aware of the difference and always avoid taking or demanding what should and must be given freely. Your submissive will give as able, and while you may wish to push limits (and limitations) and promote personal and lifestyle growth, doing so within the context of a consensual relationship is essential.

As a submissive, watch for the characteristics that might indicate that a "Dominant" is really domineering. Remember that anyone may apply a label to them self... whether it's an accurate reflection of reality is another matter entirely. As a submissive, you are under no obligation to submit to anyone not of your choosing, so don't feel pressured or bullied. Ask for help if you feel intimidated.

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