

II. Fundamentals of Biblical Marriage Part 3

3. Addressing Conflict

“It has been said, “Marriage is made in heaven, but so are thunder and lightning.” Many marriages are characterized by conflict. For God’s people, this should not be so. Any Christian couple can learn to dwell together in unity. I am not saying that christian couples will always see everything eye to eye or even never offend one another. What I am saying is that true Christians can learn how to keep from fighting with one another. Even just one partner can keep a conflict from happening.”¹

“When two people have a conflict they may have a physical fight and/or a verbal fight, but both people are involved and against one another. Conflict then, is when both parties sin against one another and are then in opposition to one another.”²

I. What does God’s Word say regarding conflict?

a. Eph 4:1-3

b. I Cor 10:31-32

c. Matt 5:44-45

¹ *The Exemplary Husband*, Stuart Scott Pg 241

² *The Exemplary Husband*, Stuart Scott Pg 242

II. What are some safeguards against conflict?

a. Prov 17:27

b. James 4:1-3

c. Galatians 5:19-21

Some things that are fleshly lusts if pursued for self-gratification:³

- Riches
- Intimacy
- Food
- Possessions
- Relaxation/comfort
- Enjoyable or extreme experiences
- Recognition/approval

d. I Cor 10:24

If you are a participant in conflict you are focused on self, you are not loving your spouse, and you are not glorifying God.

III. What are some sinful ways of avoiding conflict?⁴

a. Just keep quiet

b. Avoiding each another

c. Changing the subject

d. Hide information, sins or bitterness

³ *The Exemplary Husband*, Stuart Scott Pg 248

⁴ *The Exemplary Husband*, Stuart Scott Pg 251

IV. What are some God-honoring ways to avoid conflict?⁵

- a. Seek to know your spouse well, appreciate him/her and understand his/her perspective (I Peter 3:7).
- b. Gather plenty of data before speaking (Prov 18:13, 17).
- c. Pray, study and think about the issue before speaking, if possible (Prov 15:28).
- d. Demonstrate and/or communicate your love and care at the time of disagreement (Rom 12:9-10).
- e. Listen more than you speak, but do speak (Prov 10:19; 25:11).
- f. In matters of preference, prefer your spouse (Rom 12:10).
- g. Be more interested in God's glory and the other's good, rather than having your own way, or being right (Romans 15:2).

⁵ *The Exemplary Husband*, Stuart Scott Pg 251-252

Discussion Questions for Husbands and Wives

1. Are there any unresolved conflicts where you need to seek forgiveness?
2. In what ways are conflicts addressed well in your marriage?
3. In what ways does your marriage need to grow in resolving conflict?
4. In what ways do you personally need to grow in how you resolve potential conflict?
5. What sinful or unhelpful tendencies do you have in conflict?
6. Ask your spouse the following questions:
 - a. Do you feel like you can disagree with me?
 - b. When we find ourselves in conflict are there things I do that are unhelpful?
How about helpful?
 - c. When making tough decisions do you perceive me wanting what I want, or seeking the glory of God? Why?

II. Fundamentals of Biblical Marriage Part 4

4. Parenting as One!

I. In your parenting remember God's purposes for the marriage relationship

a. Companionship Gen 2:18

Married couples should:

- Spend time together
- Seek to understand and care for one another
- Appreciate one another
- Prioritize each other more compared to others
- Be transparent with one another

b. Service of one another Gen 2:18

A wife is to be a helper for her husband in this life.

- Worker in the home (Titus 2:4-5)
- Prayer
- Encouragement
- support
- Respectful and loving admonishment
- Shepherding and training children
- Wife, when was the last time you asked your husband, "How can I help/assist you today?"

c. Characterization of Christ and the Church Eph 5:25-30

The marriage relationship is to be a characterization or picture of Christ and His people. The Gospel is to be put on display through biblical marriages. The husbands love is to imitate Christ's sacrificial love on the cross. The wife's submission to her husband is to demonstrate the church's eager submission to Christ.

What picture does your marriage currently present to a watching world?

d. Sexual Union Gen 2:24

To be "One Flesh" Gen 2:24

Procreation Gen 1:27-28

II. In your parenting remember God's call for holiness and love

a. Apply the same verses and principles of "Addressing sin in your spouse" and "resolving conflict" to your care for your spouse and children.

b. Consider Gal 5:22-23

c. Consider Romans 12:9-21

III. Practical helps for parenting as one to the glory of God

1. Remember your ultimate aim in parenting is the glory of God.

2. Support one another in your parenting.

-Do not undermine each other.

-Do not fight in front of your children.

3. Communicate often with each other about your parenting.

Share struggles, joys, trials, challenges with each other.

4. Communicate often your thankfulness for each other.

5. Remember your mandates from God in your parenting.

To Train:

Deut 6:6-9

Prov 1:8-9

Prov 22:6

Eph 6:4

Col 3:21

To Discipline:

Prov 13:24

Prov 19:18

Prov 22:6, 15

Prov 23:13-14

Prov 29:15, 17

Discussion Questions for Husbands and Wives

1. Is there anything in regards to your parenting where you need to seek your spouse's forgiveness?

2. In what ways is parenting going well in your marriage?

3. In what ways does your marriage need to grow in parenting?

4. In what ways do you personally need to grow in your parenting?

5. What sinful or unhelpful tendencies do you have in your parenting?

6. Ask your spouse the following questions:
 - a. Where do you feel like we are unified in parenting and where do you feel like we are not unified in our parenting?

 - b. What things are most helpful for you or serve you best in our parenting?

 - c. What areas do you see in me where I need to grow in my parenting?