



# God's Design for Marriage

## Conflict Resolution



# Communication

Application from last week

What are your weaknesses in communication?

What are your strengths?

Are there sin patterns that need to be addressed in your communication?

In what specific ways will you improve in your communication?



# Communication

The benefit of disagreements and differences:

They can encourage us to search the Scriptures (Ps. 119:71-72)

They can help us think carefully about how and what we think or what we believe (Prov. 15:28)

They can help us work harder at communicating effectively (Eph 4:25)

They can produce maturity and endurance (James 1:2-5)

Stuart Scott “The Exemplary Husband”



# Communication

The benefit of disagreements and differences:

They can help us sharpen one another (Prov 27:17)

They can strengthen our faith in the truth that God is working all things together for good (Rom. 8:28-29)

They give us opportunity to practice servanthood and preferring one another (Phil. 2:2-3)

They give us opportunity to love and glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31-32)

Stuart Scott “The Exemplary Husband”



# Conflict Resolution

## Conflict Defined:

When we talk about conflict we are not talking about having a difference of opinion with someone or disagreeing with someone. We are not even talking about being offended or offending someone. These things can happen without conflict. The Latin word from which we get the word *conflict* means *to strike*. Conflict is a common military term which means *to fight against*. 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 (in their communication and/or their actions) and are then in opposition to one another*. Stuart Scott in “The Exemplary Husband”



# Conflict Resolution

What is the root cause of conflict?

James 4:1–2

<sup>1</sup> What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?

<sup>2</sup> You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.



# Conflict Resolution

When conflict is in a marriage, there is a sinful tendency:

To get your way

To protect yourself

To get even



# Conflict Resolution

## Some Hazards in Communication

Imposing motives on another person

Exaggerating

Applying Scriptures to your spouse yet unwilling to see your own sin





# Conflict Resolution

What is essential if you are to deal with conflict successfully?

You must be “in Christ.”

You must be committed to walking in a manner that pleases Christ.



# Conflict Resolution

## Common Misunderstandings

God wants you to be happy.

You deserve to be treated right.



# Conflict Resolution

God calls you...

To be His child

To suffer

To be a servant



# Conflict Resolution

Consider the life of Christ

Isaiah 53:2-3

Jn 5:1-16

Phil. 2



# Conflict Resolution

Keep in mind our objective

Romans 12:1–2

<sup>1</sup> Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.



# Conflict Resolution

Regular healthy communication is essential to deal with potential conflict in marriage.

Philippians 2:1–2

<sup>1</sup> Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

<sup>2</sup> make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.



# Conflict Resolution

Common areas that can result in conflict:

Preferences

Poor Communication

Sin

Selfishness

Rebellion – Patterns of willful sin



# Conflict Resolution

Potential areas of conflict in a marriage - preferences

Household

Finance

Personal

Habits





# Conflict Resolution

## Biblical Principles that Apply

Colossians 3:17

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Phil 2:3-5



# Conflict Resolution

Potential areas of conflict in a marriage - Communication

One spouse simply does not like to communicate

One spouse needs time to think when there is conflict and the other wants to work through it right away.

The late-night conversation



# Conflict Resolution

Potential areas of conflict in a marriage - Communication

Simple questions can lead to trouble:

Where would you like to eat?

Do you want to watch football or go shopping?

Can we talk?



# Conflict Resolution

## Assignment

Read God's Word with your spouse several times

Pray with your spouse – in addition to meal time!

Set aside time to talk together for an extended time