



Conflict Resolution

Part 1

Handouts: Chapter #5

Is it really possible to not argue with your spouse?

Conflict-free marriages are possible. There will be differences but not that constant infighting that degrades the marriage. A great marriage requires a different kind of life perspective. In this session we will understand marital conflicts and show how to develop harmonious marriages.

A) Understanding Marital Conflict

“What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel.

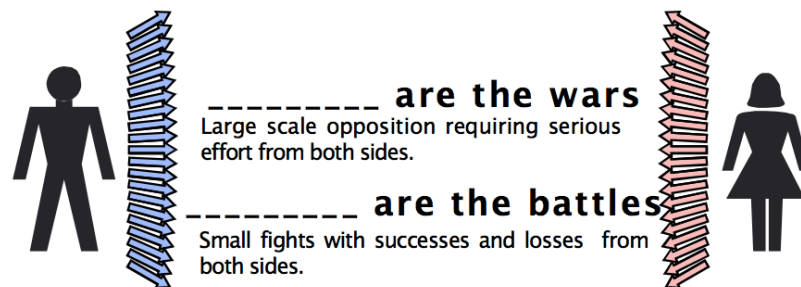
You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures” (James 4:1-3).

Nouns:	quarrels	conflicts
Verbs:	fight	quarrel

The Greek word for quarrels and conflict/fight in James 4:1-2 is used twice, once as a noun and once as a verb.

♦ In the passage above,

- Circle the words for quarrel(s)
- Put a box around conflict and fight
- Underline the word 'you' once.
- Underline the word 'your' twice.



♦ Summary

In the end we need to target the long-standing unresolved issues of the heart otherwise the conflicts keep popping up.

* Six observations on marital conflicts from James 4:1-3

1) A quarreler requires cooperation	• Quarrels • Conflicts • Members	In a marriage conflict requires both a husband and wife to participate.
2) A quarreler is _____ to please self	• People live for pleasure • Greek (<i>hedone</i>) • Hedonism	In a marriage both spouses need to check their own purpose for living.
3) A quarreler _____ pursues fulfillment	• "Do not have; so you" • "Cannot obtain, so you..."	In a marriage conflict is initiated by sneakiness or some sort manipulation.
4) A quarreler lacks self-control	• Don't have it? • Don't want it? • Responsible!	In a marriage each spouse must live by God's rules rather than one's own desires.
5) A quarreler does not seek God's way	• "You do not ask" • "With wrong motives"	In a poor marriage a spouse ignores God's Word and tries doing it his or her own way.
6) A quarreler _____ a peaceful mind	• "your pleasures" • "you lust" • "you are envious"	In a self-seeking marriage one thinks of "You" and "me" instead of God and "us".

Try clapping one handed!



1
The space is conflict.

* A Perspective on Wealth (James 4:1-3)

- ✦ Can obtain (have wealth)
- ✦ Can't obtain (lack of wealth)
 - Change lifestyle
 - Live peaceably (Proverbs 31)

Desire + Denial = Destroy

* Steps to relieve _____ conflicts

- (1) Identify these pleasures or desires. What is it that has been driving you into conflict?
- (2) Repent. Stop from seeking your own gratification rather than God's will. Focus on your own shortcomings rather than your spouses.
- (3) Commit to doing God's will regardless of the consequences. You as a Christian are to serve God.
- (4) Follow God's will. Talk is empty without action. (More on this is coming next.)
- (5) Patch up 'war' scars. When you have hurt others, then you need to apologize, confess your wrong and ask for forgiveness.

B) Creating Marital Harmony (Philippians 2:2-5)

Six principles for creating and maintaining marital harmony. Marriage principles

* 1) Remember the _____.

"By being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose" (Philippians 2:2).

➔ Devote to keeping oneness

- Convince
- Commit
- Commence
- Convene

**How much talking
and planning do
you do together ?**

➔ FOLLOWTHROUGH

- Did you talk or pray about the plans or ideas with your spouse?
- Did you share any special verse that God has been speaking to you about with him or her?

* 2) Reject any impulse to selfishness.

"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit" (Philippians 2:3).

- Selfish act
- Cover up & Excuses
- Aggravation
- "Perhaps you are right..."

➔ FOLLOWTHROUGH

- Did your spouse react strongly to something you did or said this past week?
If so, what was it? How did you respond?
- In light of what was discussed above, how should you have responded?

* 3) Devote yourselves in _____ service to the other.

"But with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself" (Philippians 2:3).

* Change of heart * Die to self * Live for Christ * Embrace humility

➔ FOLLOWTHROUGH

- Isolate one problem between you and your spouse. Humble yourself regarding it. Trust God for the results.
- Go and speak to your spouse at the proper time about the issue in a humble spirit. Note the reaction.

* 4) Consciously _____ watch out for

"Do not merely look out for your own personal interests" (Philippians 2:4).

- Responsibilities
- Risk – "What about me?"
- Fear
- Faith



➔ FOLLOWTHROUGH

- Did you feel prompted to do something this week for your spouse? Did you do it? Why or why not?
- Does the "If I do that, then he (or she) might...." ever play a factor in your decisions?

* 5) Prioritize Spouse's Needs

"But also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4).

- Available
- Notice
- Act
- Vulnerable

➔ FOLLOWTHROUGH

- What steps have you taken to make life special for your spouse?
- Would you say that you treat your spouse more special because he or she is more important than yourself?
- How can you treat her even more special?

* 6) Glory in having an attitude in life like Christ.

"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).

- Attitudes change actions. Beliefs change behavior.

Let there be no more war!

* A Prayer to end conflict

Dear Lord, I have never realized how far our marriage has been off track. I thought we were above average. I now see that we are far from where you want us to be. Lord, please forgive me of my sin. I have failed many a time without even realizing it. Sometimes I did know of my selfishness but was stubborn. O make my heart tender. Break my love for self and my pride that stands as a soldier guarding my selfishness. Let the war end. From this time on I declare a truce. I am now for peace.

I choose your love and your presence. I want our home to be a place Jesus would be welcomed all the time. I know I have a long way to go, but you can help me. I might not be the sole cause for all the arguing in our home, but I know I am one real big part of it. Please forgive me. Let me not fear humility but embrace it as Jesus has. May I be a wonderful spouse. Please give us a great marriage Lord. We don't deserve it after all that has gone on. But you are merciful. You are powerful. Do your work in our marriage to your glory. In Christ's Name I pray, Amen.

➔ Take Home Project

- ✦ Repent from serving self.
- ✦ Pledge anew to serve Christ & spouse.
- ✦ Spend more time being with Christ.
- ✦ Find a practical way to make life special for your spouse. Then do it!

BGM #5 Answers Conflict Resolution, Part 1

Quarrels are the wars
Conflicts are the battles
2) A quarrel is motivated to please self
3) A quarrel wrongly pursues fulfillment
6) A quarrel lacks a peaceful mind
* 1) Remember the oneness.
* 3) Devote yourselves in humble service
* 4) Consciously don't watch out for