



Resolve Crises & Avoid Conflict,

Part 2

Handouts: Chapter #6

Gain tools to solve crises before they break into conflict!

We need a new approach to marriage which includes:

- (1) Deliberately refusing to oppose each other, and
- (2) Designedly working together toward a great marriage.



A) The Problem-solving _____

"Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, but any fool will quarrel" (Pr 20:3).

Disagree



Discuss



Decide

Becomes aware that there are different opinions between the husband and wife about some matter.

Discuss, pray and more discussion eventually leads to resolving the issues.

The husband is responsible for the final _____. Do note that this is not the same as keeping silent, giving in or isolating oneself.

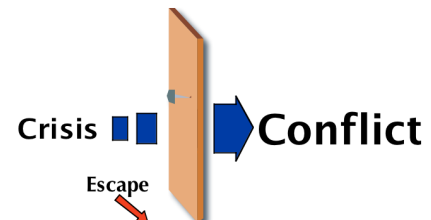


* The Escape

We have a brief moment (the door) before _____ into actual conflict.

B) Resolving Crises (Joshua)

Joshua learned to work with God during crises to avoid conflict. Note these six lessons:



* (1) Crises enable us to affirm our _____

"Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. ... No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you" (Joshua 1:3,5).

- Husband and wife united
- God is with you
- Rather fun when a couple can work with God!

➔ Self-reflection

- What do you argue about as a couple?
- Why do you argue?
- How long have you argued about the same thing?

* (2) Crises point out our potential problems

"Then it came about, when Jabin king of Hazor heard of it, that he sent to Jobab king of Madon and to the king of Shimron and to the king of Achshaph,... And they came out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore, with very many horses and chariots. So all of these kings having agreed to meet, came and encamped together at the waters of Merom, to fight against Israel " (Joshua 11:1-5).

- Marriage is God's _____ area
- God's goal is to make us more holy
- God wants to work through our lives
- Big and small crises are the same
- God's ultimate goal is peace and rest

"For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, to meet Israel in battle in order that he might utterly destroy them, that they might receive no mercy, but that he might destroy them, just as the LORD had commanded Moses" (Joshua 11:20).

➔ Self-reflection

- What was your last crisis?
- Do you find that differences of opinion always leads to arguments?
- Do you have times when differing ideas do not lead to conflict? Why so?

* (3) Crises build on unresolved conflict from the _____

Then in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete" (Genesis 15:16).

Conflicts sometimes have very long histories. God gave 400 more years to the Amorites before eliminating them by the Israelites through Joshua. Spouses need to complete a personal conflict inventory.

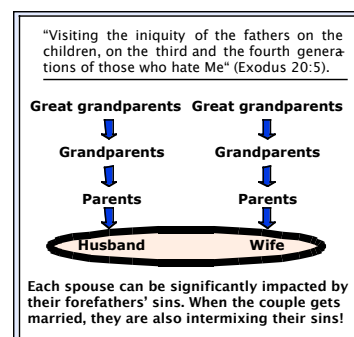
- God wants a holy people
- Common arguments reveal long standing problems.
- These patterns often can be traced to forefathers
- We are blind to such problems
- God tenderly exposes one by one (e.g. Jericho)

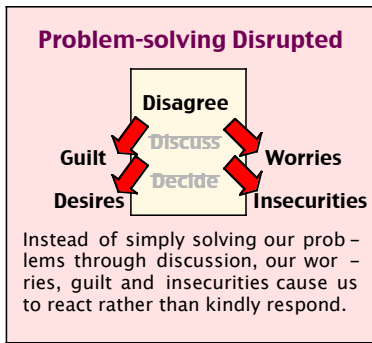
We can examine our forefather's lives and relationships. Or we can observe our own weaknesses and see how we learned from our parents.

"Visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me" (Exodus 20:5).

➔ Self-reflection

- Ask God to reveal your weaknesses to you.
- Ask your spouse to list your 3 biggest weaknesses.
- Examine the behavior of your parents and grandparents.
- Ask your spouse to help (if it is not too sensitive of an issue).
- Confess any sin revealed.





• Seek God to build you up to live beyond that past sin.

* (4) Crises must be solved God's Way

"And the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho warriors"" (Joshua 6:2).

Conflicts need to cease. God has given us a pattern in Joshua by which we can overcome the enemies that we meet during crises. These secrets to victory are found in the record called Joshua. The pattern goes something like this:

- Conflicts need to cease
- God's sufficient grace
- Steps to success



"Speak the truth in love."

Temptation

God ... Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust" (James 1:13-14).

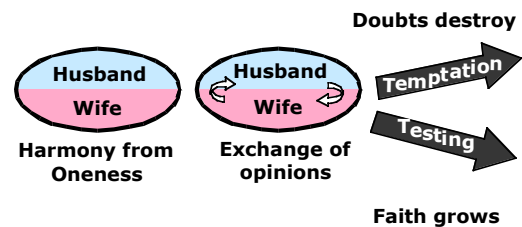
Testing

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance." (James 1:2-3,12).

* Degenerating Cycle

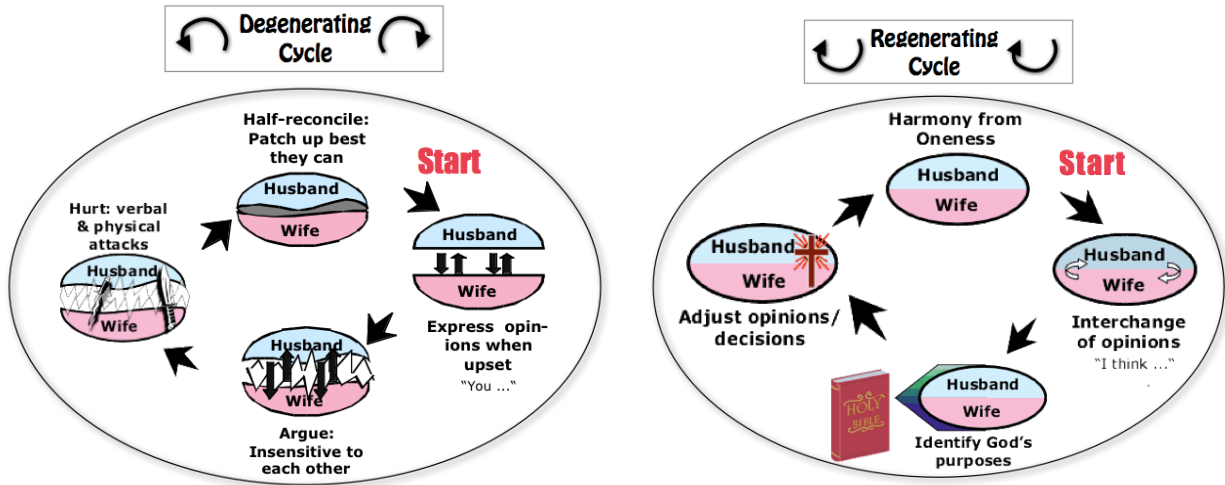
- ♦ Argue: Insensitive to each other

When we choose to seek our own wills, then these difficult times lead to even worse times. Differences grow and remain leaving unrewarding marriages. Giving into temptation always leads to devastation.



* Regenerating Cycle

When we choose to seek and trust God through these difficult times, our marriages wonderfully grow. Unity develops and the joy of marriage intensifies. When we respond in faith to our trials, God leads us onto victory.



* (5) Crises can lead us to great marriages

Toleration mode

"And there remained among the sons of Israel seven tribes who had not divided their inheritance. So Joshua said to the sons of Israel, Israel, 'How long will you put off entering to take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you?'" (Joshua 18:2-3).

✦ God's goal

Just as God wanted them to have their whole inheritance, so God wants us to have wonderful marriages.

✦ The toleration tribes

"There remained seven tribes who had not divided their inheritance..."

✦ The tolerant marriages

Husbands and wives tolerate unhappy marriages by not carrying out their God-given responsibilities.

✦ God's exhortation

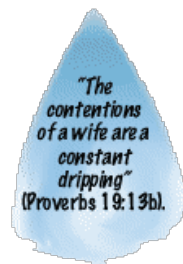
"How long?"

✦ Capturing the Caleb spirit

"Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, but any fool will quarrel" (Proverbs 20:3).

He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord (Proverbs 18:22).

"Now then, give me this hill country about which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out as the LORD has spoken (Joshua 14:12).



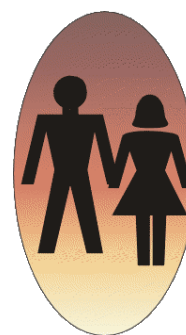
* (6) Crises result in permanent conflict if not properly resolved

*"But they **did not** drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, so the Canaanites live in the midst of Ephraim to this day, and they became forced laborers" (Joshua 16:10).*

- Did not
 - ✦ -our marriages
 - ✦ -children
 - ✦ -sad stories
- Did
 - ✦ -what about your marriage?

"God is not mocked for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7).

C) Handling Unresolved Issues



* The Big Difference of _____

* The Normal Home

Detecting and Solving Marital Problems

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject of Argument</u>	<u>Who started</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Root problem</u>	<u>Date Resolved</u>

* Responding to difficult husbands

- (1) Seeking forgiveness
- (2) Fulfill her responsibility
- (3) Desperate for help
- (4) Make suggestions
- (5) Sinful demands

* Responding to Difficult Wives

- ✦ (1) Affirm Oneness
- ✦ (2) Seek forgiveness
- ✦ (3) Be sensitive
- ✦ (4) Analyze the Situation

- What is the problem? Have I done anything that might have offended her?
- What is it that I would like her specifically to do or change?
- Do I really know what I want her to do? Have I thought it through?
- Have I ever specifically told her my expectations? When? Were they clear enough?
- Did she have enough support to handle the job?
- Does she need help, instruction or training?
- Have I explained what I want in times of crisis (eg. Child sick)?
- Is she able to discuss her difficulties with me?

"In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior."

"... For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands. Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear" (1 Peter 3:1-6).

"You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered" (1 Peter 3:7).

(5) Pro-active Problem Solving

Spend time together!

(6) Fulfill responsibility Carry out your governing tasks.

➡ Take Home Project

- Set apart two times next week discussing issues that concern each other.
- Apologize for the last time you snapped at your spouse (if you already didn't).
- Ask God to reveal your weaknesses to you.
- Ask spouse to list your 3 biggest weaknesses.
- Examine your the behavior of your parents and grandparents (good and bad).
- Discuss with spouse how each set of parents influenced you both (if not too sensitive).
- Confess any sin revealed.
- Seek God's better way of living, thinking and responding.

BGM #6 Answers Resolving Crises, Part 2
A) The Problem-solving Process
The husband is responsible for final decision.
We ... moment (the door) before entering into ...
(1) Crises enable us to affirm our oneness
Marriage is God's work area
(3) Crises build on unresolved conflict from the past
The Big Difference of Calling