

## The Dynamic Marriage

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### Conflict Resolution: Resolving Conflict

**Key Thought:** We resolve conflict well when we exchange our natural self-focus for a God-and-spouse focus.

#### Getting to the bottom of it. James 4:1-5

What causes fights and quarrels among you? *Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?* 2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3 *When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.* 4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. NIV

- What are the desires that “battle within” our lives?
  - Control
  - Fear
  - “Generational curses”
  - Pride
  - Relational history “hot buttons”
  - Achieving the “perfect marriage”
- *Key: you want something but you don't get it:*
  - When you are first married you are not always sure what you really want
    - “Love” blocks out the reality of what is going on.
    - Each person needs to know their completeness in Christ BEFORE they step into marriage and error in thinking that their spouse will be make them whole.
    - If we are not complete in Christ we will force our spouse to meet all our needs. That is a need we were never designed to meet.
  - Eph 4:1-3 What should we need?

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. NIV

    - To understand and to desire how to live out the calling we have received in Christ. *A MARRIED LIFE WORTHY OF THE CALLING*”
    - The process:
      - Humility “I need to hear why we differ”
      - Gentle “I want to hear your heart”
      - Patience “I want to hear when you are ready”
      - Bearing/upholding each other “I want to hear so I can move towards you”

### **The Bottom Line:** 1 Peter 3:8-10

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. NIV

- Key here is our motive: harmony vs. repaying evil for evil/insult for insult.
  - Prov 10:23 A fool finds pleasure in evil conduct, but a man of understanding delights in wisdom. NIV
    - The flesh can “get off” on evil thoughts.
  - Prov 11:27 He who seeks good finds good will, but evil comes to him who searches for it. NIV
    - Let your mind be renewed and not set on an evil fact finding tour. The enemy will be glad to be your tour guide!
  - Grk: Harmony/Unity > oneness in our Christ like efforts.  
“Unity does not mean uniformity; it means cooperation in the midst of diversity. The members of the body work together in unity, even though they are all different. Christians may differ on how things are to be done, but they must agree on what is to be done and why.”  
(from The Bible Exposition Commentary)
- “So that you may inherit a blessing”:
  - This is not about pay back or reward, this is about transformation. As you CHOOSE to live in harmony, you are on the road to live a transformed life.
    - The Lord/His Word teaches you. Share it together.
    - You experience the sacredness of marriage
    - The transformation of your life > you are more Christ like > you are blessed!!!!

### **Steps Towards Resolving for Growth:** Phil 4:4-8

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things. NIV

1. Assume that your spouse does not want to live in conflict anymore than you do.
2. The more you focus on the good, even the good that you will find an answer, the more you will be encouraged to “keep going”
3. Speaking value into the life of your spouse in a disagreement will keep doors open for a response back to you.
4. Prayer before/during/after sets the stage for resolving with God’s vision, not just yours.
5. Two key elements for resolution:
  - Security
    - Men: that there is an specific action point established
    - Women: that relational growth takes place
  - Significance
    - Men: I matter in the relational choices we are making as a man/husband
    - Women: I have a say in the action we are taking as a women/ wife.
6. In the resolving time > the changes are guarded in Christ
  - We are transformed in our:
    - Priorities, values, understanding and security with our spouse.