

Session 3: Conflict Resolution and Finances

Homework:

Read chapter 6 from *Love that Lasts*, "The Heart of Conflict" OR Listen to the audio, Premarital Session 3, "Growing Through Conflict"

Read chapters 1 & 2 from *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn, "Buried Treasure" & "Compounding Joy"

Objective: Understand and be committed to resolving conflict biblically

Scripture Study: James 4:1-6

1. According to James 4:1-6, what is the source of conflicts?
2. If cravings and desires are the source of conflicts, what are some good questions to ask yourself when you find yourself in a conflict?
3. What might complete absence of conflict in a marriage indicate?
4. How often have you had arguments, disagreements, or conflicts? What issue is most often the topic in your conflicts?
5. Do you find it hard to control your emotions in an argument? If so, how can you change?

6. Why does money often create tension in a marriage?

7. What are your views on giving to the church?

8. Do you have debts? What plans do you have for these debts?

9. Do your future spouse's spending habits make you nervous? Why or why not?

Recommended Resources:

- "The Cross and Criticism" by Alfred J. Poirier, *Journal of Biblical Counseling*, 17:3 (Spring 1999)
- "Cravings and Conflict" (James 4:1-2) by C.J. Mahaney (from New Attitude 2004), <http://www.thisisnext.org/resources/>

Rules for resolving conflict

(adapted from *Love that Lasts*, chapter 4, first edition)

1. Determine to pray first—asking God for help so that you can seek to resolve the issue with your focus on Christ.

2. Determine to examine yourself.

You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye (Matthew 7:5).

3. Determine to understand your spouse's position and feelings.

A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion (Proverbs 18:2).

4. Determine to remain calm.

One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless (Proverbs 14:16).

5. Husbands, determine to lead the conversation, and wives, determine to participate and respond.

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior (Ephesians 5:22-23).

6. Determine to listen without interrupting.

If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame (Proverbs 18:13).

7. Determine not to hurt your spouse by your words or actions.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who live it will eat its fruits (Proverbs 18:21).

8. Determine to extend genuine forgiveness because Christ has forgiven you.

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you (Ephesians 4:32).

9. Determine to seek help if reconciliation is unattainable.