

CONFLICT IN MARRIAGE

MICKEY CONNOLLY
Nov. 2009

III. HOW TO GET THROUGH CONFLICT

A. Things That Get in the Way

1. Pride

GORDON MACDONALD - "Pride is at the root of almost all marital conflict. Pride is the part of us that cannot face being wrong. Thus we will not accept criticism, easily evaluate facts which suggest that we hold the wrong opinion, or allow for the possibility that there simply may be times when our partner is right and we are dead wrong. As long as being the strongest, the best, and the 'rightest' is top priority, conflict will be destructive...What a burden is lifted when one no longer has to be right about everything."

- Pride as superiority
- Pride as hardheartedness
- Pride as unteachableness

2. Anger – James 4:1-2

- Anger is a horribly destructive sin – Proverbs 12:18
- Anger is controllable – Proverbs 29:11, Colossians 3:8, Proverbs 15:1

B. Things that Lead to Resolution

1. Your three-fold goal

- Solve the problem.
- Grow closer together in the process.
- Become more godly through the process.

2. Listen – James 1:19, Proverbs 18:2, Proverbs 18:13

WAYNE MACK - *“To listen properly, a servant’s attitude and posture is necessary. It requires us to put our whole inner and outer man at another person’s disposal saying: ‘Your interests, concerns, problems, successes, or failures are more important than mine. I will listen to whatever you have to say as long as it is biblically proper. I will allow you to express yourself fully. I yield myself to you. Let’s focus on what is most important to you rather than on what is most important to me.’”*

- Understand the issues
- Understand what the person is actually saying

WAYNE MACK - *“Making sure that you have correctly heard another person's words is one thing - an important first step. But two people may use the same words in different ways...Seeking to ascertain what other people mean by the words they use is the second step on the pathway to understanding. Steps three and four consist of trying to get an accurate reading on what a person is feeling and what he is trying to accomplish through his words.”*

- Speak to bring understanding and resolve.

3. Stay on the subject

- Stick to one issue at a time
- Be careful about judging motives

4. Deal with your own faults first and foremost – Matthew 7:3-5

- Confess honestly, clearly and completely
- Express sorrow for what you have done
- Describe the lessons you have learned and how you will change
- Ask for forgiveness

IV. HOW TO GET OVER IT

A. Forgiveness

1. The Motive for Forgiveness

KEN SANDE (The Peacemaker, 161) – “Because Christians are the most forgiven people in the world, we should be the most forgiving people in the world.

2. The Model for Forgiveness – Colossians 2:13-14

- **Undeserved**
- **Unlimited**
- **Unrecorded**

KEN SANDE...

- I will no longer dwell on this incident
- I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you
- I will not talk to others about this incident.
- I will not allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our relationship

B. Bitterness – Ephesians 4:31, Hebrews 12:15

C. When Problems Have Been Long Term

- Maintain hope
- See the progress
- Don't go back to zero
- Don't settle for less than the best – God intends EVERY marriage to picture Christ and the church
- Get help