

Christianity and Marital Strife

Sticky Series

Discussion Questions

- **What are some of the struggles that have come or increased with the pandemic?**
 - Studies have shown that marital strife (and even abuse) has increased during this time. Why would that be?
 - How does marital strife or stress surface in a marriage?
- **Why are some Christians tempted to hide their marital struggles from others? Why is this a sticky topic in general, not just for Christians?**
 - What false beliefs might followers of Jesus hold that keep them from sharing their marital struggles with others?
 - Are there ways we can inappropriately share our marital issues with others (e.g., small group)? How so?
- **Read Genesis 3:11-12.**
 - Describe this text in your own words.
 - How does Adam fail in this situation?
 - What does this scene tell us about marital strife and humanity?
- **Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.**
 - What does this tell us about who we are in Jesus?
 - Why is reconciliation (to God) such an important mark of citizens of Jesus' Kingdom?
 - Why should reconciliation be a goal for marital strife on gospel grounds?
- **Yancey mentioned different goals outside reconciliation: revenge, retreat, and being right. Which of these are you tempted to aim for in conflict with your spouse? Why?**
 - How do our families of origin have an influence on our conflict resolution aims?
 - How can we shift our aim from other goals to the biblical aim of reconciliation when we experience marital strife?
 - How is love the foundation for reconciliation? What are the foundations of the other alternatives (e.g., revenge, retreat, right)?
- **Yancey concluded with a path forward for bringing your marital strife issues into the light. He suggested one: 1) Confess it to God, 2) Confess it to your spouse, and 3) Confess it to your small group. Why that order of steps?**
 - Why involve small group?
 - How does this kind of practice highlight our gospel identity of being family (who love and serve each other)?

- How can this small group serve each other well in this endeavor when it comes to our marriage being gospel-centered?