

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Series: Still The One
Message Title: Conflict
Speaker: Lance Burch
Date: February 26, 2017

UP NEXT

- **Marriage Conference** - The *Married With Benefits* Marriage Conference is next weekend March 4th. Register online at www.marriedwithbenefits.org Couples both married and engaged will benefit from practical sessions addressing marriage benefits like communication, forgiveness, purity, humility, and making sex mutually fulfilling.

MAIN IDEA

Conflict in marriage is inevitable, but Combat is optional.

INTRODUCTION

- It is especially crucial for men to feel respected in their relationships, marriage and otherwise. Similarly, feeling cherished and loved are key factors for women in all of their relationships.
- Of course, in a marriage relationship, both partners need both of these "ingredients" to cook up a healthy marriage, but it's important to understand how each person is wired to receive love.
- Studying the Bible's teaching is the best way to learn how to live out these truths. Our culture is full of songs, movies, and novels about romantic love, but the reality of making a relationship work depends less on short-term feelings and more on long-term choices. This week we'll learn more about what God's Word has to say to both people in a marriage, and how to demonstrate love and respect to your spouse.

DISCUSSION

- Share briefly about how you met your spouse (*or if not married: maybe a close friend*)
- Lance compared Conflict in marriage to certain movie titles (*The Big Chill, The Shootist, Rocky*, etc) If your style of dealing with conflict was a movie title what would it be?

- Have someone read [Ephesians 5:21-33](#)
- Why do you think a passage as strong as this one is about marriage begins with the concept of submission?
- Multiple Choice: Do you think submission in relationships (marriage and others) is...
 - A - An outdated and sexist view
 - B - A good idea but completely ignored concept in our culture
 - C - Still the goal of all relationships
- Men, obviously we can't make our wives (or anyone) spiritually blameless like Christ, so what action is this passage calling us to take?
 - Is it significant that the husband is given lengthier instructions than the wife is?
 - *This would be a good place to make some joke about how men need more instructions than women.*
- How does Christ "feed and care" for His body, the church? What parallels can husbands draw in caring for their wives?

- Paul uses the Greek word "agape" for love in this passage, which is a kind of love that has less to do with feeling "in love" and more with self-sacrifice and deciding to be loving. How does this fit with the actions he is calling both spouses to in these verses?
- What does it mean for husbands to love their wives "as their own bodies" ? What is Paul really commanding here?
- **Men**, what are some practical ways you can love your wife (or friends) with words? With actions?
- **Women**, what are some practical ways you can demonstrate respect for your husband (or friends) with words? With actions?
- **Everyone**, Agree or Disagree with this statement? *Each of us must respect or love others regardless of whether we think they are being respectable or lovable.*
- What's one thing you want to do differently as a result of this discussion?

WANT TO GO DEEPER?

- Read [Colossians 3:18-19](#)... Sometimes we pushback at the idea of submitting to anyone else. How does this verse provide context to the passage we studied? The form of the verb in the Greek shows that the submission is to be voluntary. How is this kind of submission "fitting in the Lord"? How does the wife's "job" of submission become easier when the husband is doing his "job" of loving and being kind?

APPLY IT

- Lance gave us four Rules for Conflict Resolution:
 - Be honest (Ephesians 4:25) *it is revealing what's true in us*
 - Be current (Ephesians 4:26-27) *settle accounts quickly*
 - Be precise (Ephesians 4:29) *attack the problem not the person*
 - Be forgiving (Ephesians 4:31-32) *extend the same grace you've been shown*
- Are you going to the Marriage Conference? Time is quickly running out to sign up for the Married With Benefits Marriage Conference by going to www.marriedwithbenefits.org
- Get involved in re|engage this coming Fall. Class begins in August. www.reality.church/reengage

rightnow MEDIA



FREE RESOURCE

LOVE & RESPECT - by Emmerson & Sarah Eggerichs

This study answers three major questions:
 Why do we negatively react to each other in marriage?
 How do I best motivate my spouse? and What if my spouse does not respond to me?

Visit reality.church/rightnow to login or request access.