



Message Series Guide

Revive

Part 2 – Unity in Conflict

I Peter 3:8-11

Conflict and struggle are a part of every marriage. It doesn't matter if we've been married 1 year, 10 years, or 60 years, struggle and conflict are inevitable. The only difference from marriage to marriage is the frequency and the severity of those struggles and conflicts. Unfortunately, many of us go through life trying to *avoid* conflict, while others might try to *create* conflict. The key in any relationship is NOT to figure out how to avoid conflict, but how to pursue unity amid conflict. I Peter 3:8-11 lays out some qualities that are helpful in the Body of Christ, as well as in marriage, to help maintain unity in the midst of conflict.

READ:

I Peter 3:8-11 • Philippians 2:2 • Hebrews 4:15 • Ephesians 4:18 • John 17:20-23

- What five qualities does Peter tell his readers to have active and alive in their lives? How are these qualities helpful in pursuing unity for the Body of Christ? How are these qualities helpful in pursuing unity for marriage?
- How important is it for a husband and wife to have unity of mind? Does this mean that we all have to think the exact same way about things? Why or why not? What are some ways that we can have unity without uniformity in marriage?
- What does it mean to have sympathy? How can having sympathy in our marriage lead us to unity? Given an example from Scripture when Jesus showed sympathy. What was the result?
- How does brotherly love fit into our desire to experience unity in marriage? Who is often the true enemy of division in our conflicts? In conflict, why do we often see our spouse as our opponent rather than Satan?
- Explain what it means to have a tender heart. How is this different from being hard-hearted? What can we do to be tender-hearted toward our spouse?
- Peter concludes his list with having a humble mind. How do we live out this attitude? What does it look like for us to have a humble mind in marriage? Philippians 2:3-4.
- How difficult is it to not repay evil for evil? Do you ever struggle with this in marriage? What did Jesus teach about this principle?
- What does it mean to revile someone? How important is it for us to tame our tongue and make sure that our speech does not destroy others (included our spouse)? James 3:1-12.
- How is our witness for Christ strengthened when we do not repay evil for evil or say abusive things to those who oppose us? How is our marriage strengthened when we are quick to listen, understand and forgive our spouse?

DISCUSS:

- Many marriages end today due to unresolved conflict. Why do you think Satan attacks marriages so often?
- Why is it so important that we strive to be people who pursue peace in all of our relationship? How did Christ pursue peace on our behalf?

PRAY:

Pray that in all your relationships (including marriage) God would give you the strength to pursue unity in conflict.

RESPOND:

Sign-up to attend the Revive Marriage Conference on March 5 www.theridge.cc/events



Sermon Notes

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I Peter 3:8-11

Quote:

“Marriage is a lifetime commitment between one person who thinks the house is always too warm and another person who thinks the house is always too cool.” - Unknown

Unity in marriage is to have a oneness of heart and purpose.

5 Qualities that Help Pursue Unity in the Midst of Conflict

1. Unity of Mind – to be like-minded.
2. Sympathy – to understand or validate someone’s feelings.
3. Brotherly Love – to be committed to one another more than anyone else outside the family.
4. Tender Heart – to be compassionate or kind-hearted.
5. Humble Mind – to set ourselves aside for another.

Pay back wrongs with blessings.

Our words have the power to either give life or take like away.

We must pursue peace with passion