

Discussion Questions 5/28/23

Engaging Conflict

Intro: How do I engage with conflict in my marriage? Scripture actually has a lot to share with us regarding marriage and how to live out a godly marriage that reflects the love of Jesus. Marriage is a beautiful beacon pointing to covenantal relationship between Christ and his church. Learning how to engage conflict well helps our marriages to show the rest of the world Jesus and the gospel.

Story: Romans 5:10 says that before salvation we were enemies with God. Not just indifferent, but we were enemies of God. How do you now see that you were an enemy of God and how did Jesus resolve that conflict for you personally?

Read: Genesis 2:15-24, 3:6-13

1. What are some common sources of conflict in marriages? How can couples effectively address and manage these issues?
2. Read Colossians 3:12-15. Key to engaging conflict is forgiveness. Consider the list of attributes in verse 12. If Jesus were to help you increase one of these attributes, which would make the biggest impact in your ability to forgive?
3. Read Romans 14. How does this teach you to handle conflict in your life?
4. What role does empathy play in resolving conflicts within a marriage? How can couples cultivate empathy for each other during challenging times? (Romans 12:15 may be helpful here)
5. Read Psalm 3. David wrote these words when he was running from his son Absalom, who was trying to kill him. David still deeply loved his son, but still talked to God in some seriously explicit ways. What is the importance of genuinely engaging with God in total honesty when dealing with conflict?

Pray for:

- The attributes considered by group members in question 2.
- Reconciliation in your most important relationships.
- For empathy from God.