



# Overcoming Incompatibility

Pastor Jeremy McGarity

"Submit yourselves to one another because of your reverence for Christ."

EPHESIANS 5:21 | GN

## I. INCOMPATIBILITY IS unavoidable

"If we can be divorced for incompatibility, I cannot understand why we are not all divorced. I have known many people in happy marriages but never were they compatible ones."

G.K. CHESTERTON

## II. UNDERSTAND THE sources OF INCOMPATIBILITY

- 1 We are male and female .
- 2 We bring different family backgrounds .
- 3 We have different ways of communicating .
- 4 We have different personalities .

### III. HOW TO OVERCOME INCOMPATIBILITY

1

**Release** your partner to be himself/herself.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility, consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests but also to the interests of others."

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4 | NIV

"You (GOD) made me like a handcrafted piece of pottery ..."

JOB 10:8 | MSG

2

**Work hard at understanding** your differences.

"In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together ..."

1 PETER 3:7 | NLT

"In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well ..."

ROMANS 12:6 | NLT

3

**Learn to forgive** those differences.

"In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can't get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others."

MATTHEW 6:14 | MSG

"Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."

JAMES 4:14 | NIV

4

Learn and practice each other's **love** \_\_\_\_\_

**language** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Definition:** How to express heartfelt commitment to your mate

1. Words of **Affirmation** \_\_\_\_\_

2. Quality **Time** \_\_\_\_\_

3. Receiving **Gifts** \_\_\_\_\_

4. Acts of **Service** \_\_\_\_\_

5. Physical **Touch** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Evaluate:**

My love language is 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

I think my spouse's love language is

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

GN = GOOD NEWS TRANSLATION, NIV = NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION,  
MSG = THE MESSAGE TRANSLATION, NLT = NEW LIVING TRANSLATION.

## Small Group Questions

- 1** Share one thing that stood out to you in this week's sermon and why?
- 2** Within your notes, Pastor Jeremy shared 4 points on incompatibility. **Out of those 4 points, what would you say you struggle with the most in relationships, and why?**
- 3** **Does forgiveness come easy or is it a struggle for you, and why? How can you improve in this area of your relationships?**
- 4** Go around the group and share what your love language is. If you don't know your love language, share what you think it may be from the list in your notes.
- 5** **How can we be praying for you this week?**