

Oxford Baptist Church – Pastor Robin W. Pifer December 1, 2019.

2019 Theme: Transformed for Christ's Glory

Message: "Dealing with Conflict Successfully."

Scripture: Eph 4:25-27; James 1:19; 4:1-3

Pride leads to conflict; Humility leads to growth.

"Conflict is common to all marriages/relationships. Therefore, the goal of marriage is not to be conflict-free, but to handle conflict correctly when it occurs."

"Marriage is the last, best chance to grow up." Joseph Barth.

The choices you make during a conflict either drive you apart or bind you together to mature. Prov 15:1; 16:32;

- Two Responses to conflict.
Stuffing (rejection, withdrawal).
Reaction (anger, aggression, hostility). James 1:19
- Areas of Most Conflict – Money, Sex, Work, Parenting, Household chores, Beliefs and Values.
- Tension Adjusters.

Why do we "stuff or react" in conflict?

- Our personal 'rights' are violated.
- Our expectations are not met.
- We are hurt. Trust is broken.
- We like to fight.

For some people, it is safer to show anger than to acknowledge hurt.

Humble ourselves and Be Honest. Anger must be controlled since it results in Bitterness, Depression, Conflict with others and God. **Ephesians 4:25-27; Eph 4:13**

- Speak the truth in love with wisdom and humility. Gal 6:1

How to deal with conflict or have a good fight?*

Fight for Win/Win. _____.

Fight for Personal Responsibility. _____.

Fight to Avoid the Put Down. _____.

Fight by Stepping into their shoes. _____.

Fight one problem at a time. _____.

*Adapted from The Good Fight – Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott

Life Group Questions

1. Take time to reread the scriptures contained in the notes.
2. Discuss Joseph Barth's quote.
3. Why is "stuffing or reacting" inappropriate to deal with conflict?
4. Discuss the areas of most conflict in marriage. Which ones do you struggle in your marriage?
5. What other areas cause conflict in friendships or the church?
6. How do the scriptures in James and Ephesians impact how we deal with conflict?
7. Can you think of any other scriptures that help us spiritually to deal with conflict in our lives?
8. What has helped you work through conflict in your relationships?
9. How has last week's message on Forgiveness impacted our thinking and practice to resolve conflict?
10. What was your biggest take away from this message?