

## Home Builder's

### Making Marriage Work in a Broken World

#### Lesson 5: Fighting Fair: Conflict Resolution

**Text:** Luke 17:1-4 | Ephesians 4:25-32

#### Introduction:

Interpersonal conflict is a reality in the world we live in. We must manage relationships with co-workers, bosses, friends, and even family. If we aren't careful, we will allow walls to be put up between us and those that we love most.

#### Outline:

- I. Offenses are inevitable, but we should be cautious not to be an offense to God's children. (Luke 1-2)
  - A. Offenses are inevitable.
    1. In a broken, fallen world full of imperfect people you will have offenses in your marriage.
    2. There are no perfect marriages.
  - B. We should be cautious to avoid offending God's children.
    1. God takes offense against His children seriously.
- II. Offenses are inevitable, we should be quick to forgive those who repent when they wrong us. (Luke 3-4)
  - A. We should forgive others when they repent.
  - B. The frequency of our forgiveness should have no limit.
- III. Christians should live out the reality of the new life they have been given in Christ. (Ephesians 4:17-32)
  - A. The old way of living should be renounced. (17-19)
    1. We are no longer to live in darkness.
  - B. Christians should renew their minds as new creations in Christ. (20-24)
    1. The old man has been put off.
    2. The new man has been put on.
    3. So, renew your mind!
    4. That is, adopt a new mindset.
    5. God wants to transform the intentions, thoughts, and attitudes of our hearts.
    6. How, the Holy Spirit of God uses the Word of God to shape the minds of the people of God.
  - C. Christians should live renewed lives. (25-32)
    1. We should live lives that outwardly reflect the new inward reality.
    2. This includes adopting the spirit and attitude of forgiveness.
    3. It takes a renewed mind to live this way.

## **Application:**

- Life in a fallen world means that we will become offended.
  - Offenses need to be handled in a biblical way.
- Life in a fallen world means that we must learn to forgive.
  - The inability to forgive will lead to a host of personal problems.
    - There are both biological and spiritual problems that will arise from bitterness.
- Take care of problems before bitterness begins to take root.
- Resolving issues takes humility.
- Renew your mind.
  - Read the Scripture to know and love God.
  - Pray to follow and be conformed to Christ.
  - Be in close relation with mature Christians.

## **For Next Week:**

**Lesson Title:** Who Does What? Roles and Expectations in Marriage

**Text(s):** Ephesians 5:22-33 | 1 Peter 3:1-7

Consider how the Bible describes roles in marriage. In what way does the bible differ than culture?