

LEARNING TO FIGHT FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

POINTS TO PONDER:

1. There's a difference between fighting and 'fighting right'.
2. Many don't know how to 'fight right' for their relationships to be better.
3. You have to fight from a 'FOXHOLE' mentality not a 'FRUSTRATION' mentality.
4. Your spouse is not your PROBLEM. Your spouse is your potential.

Read Ephesians 5:23 – 32

- Marriage is 2 people becoming one. It's a spiritual principle. $1 + 1 = 1$.
- When 2 attempt to become 1 a fight can ensue.
- Fighting is not wrong – you just need to fight right.
- Pouting and running is just as deadly as screaming and yelling
- If you're still dealing with the same problem over and over, you don't know how to fight right.
- To fight right means you fight as 1 (a unit) not as 2 (enemies).
- Marriage is a mirror of Christ's love for the church.
- The enemy will fight hard because of this.

Does your marriage reflect your relationship with Christ?

If you and Jesus are right, how can your marriage not be?

- The deception is being intimate with God but having a broken marriage.
- We should reflect the love of God everywhere we go - even in our marriages.
- Our marriage should show the love of Christ to the world.

How can God use you to change the world when He can't trust you with your own home?

- When your marriage is right, God can trust you with more.

Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?

Read Genesis 2 & 3

- Satan didn't show up until Eve was created.
- For sin to happen, 2 were needed for agreement.
- God wasn't going to agree with Adam for sin to happen.
- God will never agree with your sin.
- Sin entered when Adam ate the fruit with Eve and came into agreement to disobey.
- Adam entered into agreement with Eve for disobedience.
- There's power in agreement - for obedience or disobedience.
- The enemy wants to get you into disagreement with God and each other.
- Adam and Eve didn't know how to fight right. They forgot the direction of God in their lives.

Why do you think Satan waited around to tempt Eve first? Why not tempt Adam first?

Did Satan need Adam and Eve to agree on disobedience for it to work?

Why do you think their eyes were not opened until after they BOTH ate?

Read Amos 3:1 – 3

- You have to agree together on the direction you want your marriage to take.
- Remind each other of God's plan and direction for your marriage.
- Remind each other of what God can do through you together.
- Don't agree to live and be defined by your failures.
- Agree that your direction will be one governed by WHAT GOD CAN DO not governed by WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO EACH OTHER.

Right now in its present condition, would God agree with the state/path of your marriage?

Can you walk with someone without being in agreement with them?

What is one adjective that you would like to describe your marriage 365 days from now?

HOW TO FIGHT RIGHT

1. Fight from direction not discouragement.

- Fight for date night NOT on date night
- Have the “we matter” attitude.
- You have to matter to each other more than anything else that's against you.

2. You can fight from a FLESH MENTALITY or from FOXHOLE MENTALITY.

- FLESH MENTALITY fights each other.
- FOXHOLE MENTALITY fights the problem.
- FLESH MENTALITY fights from an emotional standpoint.
- FOXHOLE MENTALITY fights from a faith standpoint.
- FLESH MENTALITY hurls insults.
- FOXHOLE MENTALITY hurls blessings.
- FLESH MENTALITY uses words for hurt and punishment.
- FOXHOLE MENTALITY uses words to heal.
- FLESH MENTALITY sees their spouse as the problem.
- FOXHOLE MENTALITY sees their spouse as the potential
- FLESH MENTALITY sees your spouse as the enemy.
- FOXHOLE MENTALITY sees the devil as your enemy.
- FLESH MENTALITY allows negativity to rule.
- FOXHOLE MENTALITY never lets negativity have a voice.
- FLESH MENTALITY tolerates the chaos over and over again.
- FOXHOLE MENTALITY seeks for answers and solutions.
- FLESH MENTALITY screams at each other.
- FOXHOLE MENTALITY prays for each other.
- FLESH MENTALITY speaks death and discouragement.
- FOXHOLE MENTALITY speaks life and hope.

Which mentality dominates most in your life?

**When you are in a disagreement which definition above best fits you?
(Pick only one line from above that best defines you.)**

Would Jesus approve of the words you use when in an argument?

SOME RULES TO GO BY:

1. The issue doesn't have to be solved right now.
2. Identify the real problem.
3. What IN YOU is the problem?
4. Don't try to solve every problem today.
5. Plan a time to talk about it. Once you share your heart, move on.
6. Agree to disagree.
7. Give each other space to talk about it. Don't get mad or sulk when your spouse shares their heart or feelings. (Remember don't lob grenades at each other.)
8. Don't try to fix every thing at once.
9. Don't leave discouraged.