

OUR IMPERFECT FAMILY – 4

Fight For Me

1 Corinthians 7:28 (NLT) But if you do get married, it is not a sin. And if a young woman gets married, it is not a sin. However, those who get married at this time will have troubles, and I am trying to spare you those problems.

- Good relationships are possible but not _____.
- Unless we are _____ our marriages and family relationships will deteriorate over time.

FOUR CAUSES OF CONFLICT

1. Poor _____.

Psalm 141:3 (NIV) Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.

2. Unfulfilled _____.

James 4:1-2 (NLT) What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.

Nehemiah 8:10 (NLT) And Nehemiah continued, "Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!"

3. Despising _____.

Mark 3:25 (NKJV) And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

4. _____ nature.

Romans 3:23 (NLT) For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

FOUR WAYS TO DEAL WITH CONFLICT

1. _____ way.
2. _____ way.
3. _____ way.
4. _____ way.

Matthew 6:33 (AMP)

Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT) A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

- Conflict cannot continue without my _____.

Galatians 2:20 (NLT) My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

A PRE-FIGHT PLAN

1. We will _____ not react.

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NLT) And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

- Never put it _____.
- Never call _____.
- Never raise your _____.
- Never get _____.
- Never say “_____” or “_____”.

WHY NOT?

1. Rarely factual.
2. You disqualify all of the good with the bad.
3. Causes your partner to forfeit and not try.

- Never _____.
- Never threaten _____.

2. We will _____ on the _____ things in each other.

Philippians 4:8-9 (NLT) And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. ⁹ Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

3. We _____ God's grace.

Romans 12:19-21 (NLT) Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say,

“I will take revenge;
I will pay them back,”
says the Lord.

²⁰ Instead,

“If your enemies are hungry, feed them.
If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap
burning coals of shame on their heads.”

²¹ Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

Luke 6:37-38 (NLT) “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”

4. We'll _____ like God loves us.

- Love never fails, but _____ fail to love.
- Love applied heals the _____.

¹ John 4:8-11 (MSG) My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God *is* love—so you can't know him if you don't love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This

is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God.

¹¹⁻¹² My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love!

“Love is to the relationship what blood is to the body.”

5. We're _____ to work things out peacefully, personally and privately.

“Peace is not absence of conflict. It is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means.” – Ronald Reagan

- We _____ our stuff.
- We call _____ if tempers rise.
- We put _____ before _____ and agree to disagree.
- We're quick to _____.
- We're quick to _____ the relationship.

1 Peter 5:8 (NLT) Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.