

## “Resolving Conflicts in Marriage”



Margie spoke to her mom and with a note of insistence said, “Tom and I love each other. I absolutely know that after we get married we will never have a disagreement or fight.” Mom smiled and simply said, “Then you will be different from every couple ever married.”

Two months later her wedding took place. Within a few days, their first disagreement took place. Every couple has the following things in common with every other couple.

1. Two different backgrounds that are now blending into a present home.
2. Two different personalities that act out in unique ways.
3. Two sets of preferences, opinions, and even convictions that come into play.
4. Two sinful natures that live, think, speak, and act within the home.

Add all of these together and conflicts are inevitable. How do we handle these conflicts? How do we resolve these conflicts?

**Stop the video!** Are you able to list several ways that couples incorrectly or unwisely deal with conflicts?

The Apostle Paul teaches believers about the importance of resolving conflicts in Ephesians

4. When conflicts are not resolved, the following situations develop.

1. Unresolved conflicts affect our fellowship with the Lord.
2. Unresolved conflicts hurt the love relationship between a husband and wife.
3. Unresolved conflicts set a poor example to our children.
4. Unresolved conflicts hinder God answering our prayers.
5. Unresolved conflicts rob a couple of the joy that God intended for them.
6. Unresolved conflicts create tension in the home rather than peace and joy.
7. Unresolved conflicts waste a lot of energy. It takes work to stay angry!

Look at the command found in Ephesians 4:26. How can we accomplish this?

1. Be \_\_\_\_\_ (4:27).

2. Be \_\_\_\_\_ (4:28).

3. Be \_\_\_\_\_ (4:29).

4. Be \_\_\_\_\_ (4:30).

5. Be \_\_\_\_\_ (4:31-32).

Questions to consider

1. Have you ever met a person who for a considerable amount of time has held a grudge? If so, describe the characteristics of that person's life and situation.

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2. Imagine a couple has experienced a situation in which they disagree. How does Ephesians 4:15 provide very good counsel in the way that should speak with each other?

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3. Why is it important to remove from our lives the things listed in Ephesians 4:31?

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