

Overflow in Marriage - Meeting #3 *Fighting and Conflict*

Review: Ephesians 5:21 *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

Focus Verse:

Ephesians 5:15-20

15 So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. 16 Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. 17 Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

Five Things:

1. *Don't live like fool, but like those who are wise...* What are foolish things couples do or expose themselves to? What are wise things couples do? See Hebrews 13:7 to see how can we learn the difference?
2. *Make the most of every opportunity...* Do we consider conflicts as *opportunities*? How does James 1:2-4 address this? How does 1 Corinthians 6:7 address this? What keeps us from *just accepting the injustice and leave it at that*?
3. How is Psalm 103:6 (*The Lord gives righteousness and justice to all who are treated unfairly.*) a good solution to item #2.
4. *Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants **you** to do...* Do we understand that our relationship with our spouse is actually just between us and God and really has nothing to do with our spouse at all? It is important to remember that we rely on God for *everything* and *every need* including our need for fulfilment and self worth. Looking to our spouse for these things will lead to disappointment and discontentment. How does Philippians 4:19 confirm this?
5. Acting thoughtlessly leads to quarrels in marriage. Read James 3:13-18-4:1-3. If *jealousy* and selfishness are the likeliest culprits of all fights and arguments consider those as being the **root** when you are arguing with your spouse and repent of it. Remember, your relationship with your spouse is actually just between you and God.

Activity: These scriptures provide some practical ways we can prefer our spouse and alleviate conflict:

Philippians 2:14 Do not complain or explain.

Colossians 3:23 Do and say things like your are doing it for Jesus and not for a person.

Proverbs 15:28 Avoid conflict by asking your spouse how long they have been thinking about the thing they brought up to you and consider thinking about it for at least half that time before you give a response.

Homework:

Life Verses about Foolishness: Proverbs 14:1, Proverbs 14:9, Proverbs 14:16, Proverbs 29:11, Proverbs 29:9, Proverbs 18:6, Psalm 37:8 - Do you identify with any of these?

Life Verses about Wisdom: Proverbs 10:23, Proverbs 12:15, Proverbs 19:20, Job 12:13, Proverbs 17:10, Proverbs 23:12, Proverbs 1:7 - How do these passages encourage you to get godly wisdom?

Facts from the Focus Verse:

1. Living *carefully* requires forethought and prayer.
2. Wise people live how God prescribes and not by their own feelings.
3. Thoughtless words and actions are counterproductive to a godly marriage.

Turn these facts into prayers.