

Rather Suffer Wrong (Marriage Series)

1 Corinthians 6:1-8

Conflict in Relationships...

- Is inevitable as long as the relationship is between two sinners
- Will not be about the things they agree on
- Often results from a gap in expectations
- Is not limited to marriage relationships, but all relationships

Marriage is unique in its intensity, but all relationships are prone to interpersonal conflict.

1 Corinthians 6:1-8

- Saints will judge the world. Saints will judge the angels. (vs 2-3)
 - You, as a believer, have an exalted place in the created order
 - But so does your spouse!
- Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute? (vs 5)
 - As a couple, do you have someone you trust enough to help you through conflict in your marriage?
- Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? (vs 7)
 - Have you ever approached an argument with the attitude of “I would rather be wrong and honor the other person rather than be proven right at any cost”?

3 layers to any conflict

- Presenting material issue: the thing that caused the argument in the first place
- Interpersonal: the effect of the argument on the relationship between the parties
- Intrapersonal: why did this matter so much that I was willing to fight about it?

Making peace vs keeping peace

- Keeping peace: passive and assumes that peace already exists and simply needs to be maintained
- Making peace: active pursuit that assumes that peace either doesn't currently exist or that it needs to be fought for
- As Christians, we are called to make peace and to seek peace
- Hebrews 12:14, 1 Peter 3:11, Proverbs 12:20, Romans 12:18; 14:19, Psalm 34:14; 37:17, Matthew 5:9
- *And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace (James 3:18).*

Jesus rather suffered wrong

- The whole of the gospel rests on Jesus, the perfect, sinless God-man, choosing to be wrong on our behalf. That is how he made peace for us with God.

The Geneva Convention: Rules for Fighting Fair in Marriage

The following represents an agreement between _____ and _____ to fight fair, to fight honorably and to fight for one another, not just against one another. These rules are to be abided by in any and every argument.

- **No name calling:** We will avoid language that can escalate the discussion and hurt the other person.
- **7 day statute of limitations:** We will seek to resolve issues quickly and as they arise. No issue may be raised in an argument that is more than 7 days old.
- **Argue in private:** We will not argue in front of other people, including future children. We will have our arguments in private so much as is possible.
- **One issue at a time:** To facilitate a focus on working together to solve problems, we will only address one issue at a time. If a second issue comes up, it will be named as such and postponed to be dealt with at a later time.
- **Us vs. Issue not me vs. you:** We are a team and agree to fight as people on the same team striving for the same goal: to build up our relationship and to resolve issues. We will strive not to pit ourselves against the other person, but alongside the other person dealing with an issue.
- **Time out:** Either person may call a time out in the midst of an argument for the purposes of cooling off, clarifying why an issue is important to him/her and being reminded that the other person is not the enemy. All time outs must be resumed within 24 hours.

All of these rules flow from a fundamental principle: the person matters more than the issue and therefore we will attack issues, but not one another.

I, _____, agree to these rules and give _____ permission to hold me accountability to fighting in accordance with them without fear of repercussion.

Signed, _____

I, _____, agree to these rules and give _____ permission to hold me accountability to fighting in accordance with them without fear of repercussion.

Signed, _____