



# Reconcilable Differences

February 22, 2015

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I slept but my heart was awake. Listen! My beloved is knocking: “Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one. My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night.” **Song of Songs 5:2 (NIV2011)**

I have taken off my robe— must I put it on again? I have washed my feet— must I soil them again? **Song of Songs 5:3 (NIV2011)**

## The Root Causes of Conflict

1. Unmet \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>4</sup> My beloved thrust his hand through the latch-opening; my heart began to pound for him. <sup>5</sup> I arose to open for my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with flowing myrrh, on the handles of the bolt. <sup>6</sup> I opened for my beloved, but my beloved had left; he was gone. My heart sank at his departure. I looked for him but did not find him. I called him but he did not answer. **Song of Songs 5:4-6 (NIV2011)**

## To Resolve Conflict

- I will \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_

Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good. **Romans 12:21 (NLT)**

- I will focus on the \_\_\_\_\_ and not the \_\_\_\_\_

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.

**Philippians 4:8 (NLT)**

- I will \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_

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

I went down to the grove of nut trees to look at the new growth in the valley, to see if the vines had budded or the pomegranates were in bloom. **Song of Songs 6:11 (NIV2011)**

## My Next Step Today Is To...

- Do what is in my power to restore a damaged relationship.
- Identify areas in my life where I tend to react because of unmet expectations and/or self-centeredness, asking God to help me learn to respond in healthy ways.
- Work to resolve conflict in ways that strengthen my marriage and/or relationships.
- Receive Jesus as my Savior and Lord.

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Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

- What's the dumbest thing you've ever fought over?
- Share a time when an unmet expectation made you a lot angrier than it should have.
- How does self-centeredness play into the things you fight about? Share examples and talk about how it could have been handled in a more other-focused way.
- How aware of your own self-centeredness do you think you are? How could you get a more objective view of it?
- What's the difference between reacting and acting? Give examples of times when this was handled well.

**For Singles**

- How much of a problem would your friends and family say anger is for you? How do you see anger affecting your relationships?
- Which of your relationships has the most conflict?

- Describe someone who is really good at reconciling differences. What can you do to be better at it?

**For Married Couples**

- Kids, money, schedule, work, household chores, or maybe holidays with in-laws? Which issue most easily turns into a fight for you?
- List some good things about your spouse. How difficult is it for you to focus on these things during a fight.
- What's your impulse in a fight – to talk or walk? How does this fit in to your natural personality? What can you do to make this work better in your marriage?

**Call to Action**

- What will you do this week to restore a relationship damaged by fighting?
- What can you do to build your fighting skills this week? What would improve your relationships in this area?