

# // Sermon Discussion Guide //

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April 29, 2012

Topic: "Fight Song"

## READ & REFLECT

Proverbs 27:17; Luke 6:41, 42, Proverbs 19:11; Colossians 3:13; Song of Solomon 5:1-9; 6:3; Luke 6:41-42

## OBSERVE & APPLY

1. What particular point or principle from the sermon this week most challenged, confused you or caught your attention?
  
2. **"Conflict-free marriage is an oxymoron."** Judith Wallerstein, professor at UC Berkeley for nearly 25 years, writes in her book *The Good Marriage*, "Conflict-free marriage is an oxymoron." Every marriage is going to have conflicts, no matter how deeply a man and woman love each other.  
  
Do you agree or disagree? Why?
  
3. Jeff said in his message "At the root of marriage problems is selfishness, self-centeredness. It is the main enemy of marriage, the main cancer." How can applying Ephesians 5:21 [submitting and serving] bring the love back?
  
4. When you get married—your spouse is like a 5-ton truck coming right through you and when it runs through our marriage it can reveal our structural flaws. "Marriage shows us our warts and flaws." And since approximately 70% of marriage conflicts are perpetual – we need to get used to conflict and learn how to live with it.
  - a. Read and reflect on Proverbs 27:17 – how much more so in marriage!
  - b. Read and reflect on Luke 6:41-42 - we all find it very difficult to see what we contribute to a conflict.
  
5. Key points.
  - a. **Choose Your Battles Carefully!** Before you get into a conflict you need to ask, "Is this one worth it?" Some offenses just need to be overlooked. Proverbs 19:11, "*A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense.*"
  - b. **Recognize Gender Differences.** Most men tend to be in touch with their thoughts first, then their feelings. Most women tend to be in touch with their feelings first, then their thoughts.

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c. **Forgive As God Has Forgiven You.** Forgiveness is essential for a happy, lasting marriage. Colossians 3:13, *“Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”*

d. **When You Are Stuck Get Help!**

6. Do you remember the twelve words that hold a marriage together?

I was \_\_\_\_\_, I am \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ me, I \_\_\_\_\_ you.

7. Looking back over the sermon and study what additional points do you want to keep in mind during the next week?

8. Close by praying for the marriages of friends and family; conclude your time in prayer praying for your marriages.

## RESOURCES

**5 Love Languages** – FREE on line assessment <http://www.5lovelanguages.com/assessments/love/>

**FREE counseling** 1-800-AFAMILY for parenting or marriage issues from <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/>

**Pastoral Counseling** Pastor Bud Lamb bud@rollhillchurch.com