

Man vs. Wife

How to move from *competitors* to *companions*...

Marriage is about the one.

Genesis 2:23-25

Competition is the Opposition to oneness.

Factors that fuel competition...

Pride separates me from us.

Ephesians 2:14

The many faces of pride: Selfishness, Negativity, Isolation.

James 4:3; Phil. 2:14; 1 Peter 4:9; James 5:9; Psalm 100:4; Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:18

Negativity is a choice – We can choose what we focus on.

We need a tribe for a right perspective on each other.

Proverbs 27:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Romans 12:9-13

Steps to oneness...

- Treat your spouse BETTER than you treat anyone else.
- Forgive your spouse MORE than you forgive anyone else.
- Adapt to your spouse FAR MORE than you adapt to anyone else.

NEXT STEPS

Use these notes to turn a message into a conversation. Join with one person or many and continue to grow by using these next steps this week.

Special Note About this Week's Message on Man vs. Wife: This week's discussion is designed to be helpful for all of us regardless of our marital status. For those who are not married, it could be helpful in providing insights for aiding relationships with family and friends.

MY STORY

1. Looking back over your sermon notes from Man Vs Wife what was most challenging, helpful, or interesting to you?

2. Can you think of any expectations or assumptions about marriage you had that you later discovered were inaccurate? Where do you think these expectations came from?

GOING DEEPER

We read in Colossians 3:14 that love is the quality that produces unity in all of our relationships including marriage. The best description of love is found in 1 Corinthians 13.

As you read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, replace the word "love" with your own name. Now take a minute to consider how true what you just read is of your relationship with your spouse. (or other family)

Pride in its many forms is in opposition to great relationships. Review key points from this week's message.

What area are of pride (Selfishness, negativity, isolation) do you see most at work in your life? How can the scriptures in the message guide help you?

It is important to gain understanding when your relationship with your spouse or other significant people seems to hit an impasse.

What principles or guidelines do the following verses give you to gain understanding of the other person's point of view?

Proverbs 1:5

Proverbs 11:12

Proverbs 20:5

I Corinthians 10:24

James 1:19

TAKING IT HOME

If you are married, engaged or dating, take a minute to really think about your significant other and write down at least five strengths, gifts, or abilities that they possess. If you are single, do the same thing for a family member or friend that you care about.

Now read Hebrews 10:24-25.

Think about each strength or gift listed above and jot down how you can encourage them or "spur them on" to develop or build upon a few of their strengths. Be as specific as possible.