



Under the Mistletoe: A Better Marriage by Christmas

Part 2: Resolving Conflict - Sermon Study Guide 12|04|16 - Pastor Eric Huffman (@pastorerichuffman), **The Story Houston**

“They say marriages are made in heaven,
but so are thunder and lightning.”

- Clint Eastwood

Today’s topic is overcoming adversity in marriage. Every marriage is bound to struggle, from everyday spats to earth-shattering betrayal. Some couples call it quits, while others stick it out. What’s wrong with calling Time of Death when you’re “trapped in a loveless marriage”?

King David’s Baby Mama Drama (2 Samuel 11-12)

Hearing David’s story, where did it all start to go wrong for the king?

So yeah, this story is extreme (maybe you’ve never plotted the death of your pregnant lover’s spouse...) but many marriages that struggle today share some things in common with David and Bathsheba:

Suboptimal _____

choices

Patterns of _____

Have you ever seen a marriage (yours or someone else’s) struggle under these circumstances? What was the outcome?

How we deal with everything and betrayal is _____.

How do people _____ deal with conflict and betrayal? Why do we respond that way?

More importantly, what do these methods _____ ?

Resolving conflict in marriage means getting to the root of the problem, which is...



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Me*

Pastor Eric. You are the root of your problem. Sorry.

Except in _____ (like when your spouse is legitimately mentally ill and/or severely addicted and/or grossly abusive), you are the root of the problem in your marriage. Why is it so important to keep this in mind? Why is it so _____ to keep this in mind?

James 4:1-2 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your selfish desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.

What difference does having a Christian worldview make in marriage? How does the Gospel inspire us to deal with conflict, betrayal, and unmet expectations in a different way?

Ephesians 5:21-22, 25 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

How have the Bible's words about submission in marriage been misunderstood? What does submission in marriage _____ look like, day-to-day?

Marriage in the Middle

what he wants
fight
spend all our money

MARRIAGE
MARRIAGE
MARRIAGE
MARRIAGE
MARRIAGE

what she wants
flight
save all our money

Even though it started out so ugly, God redeemed David and Bathsheba's marriage (Matt. 1:6). God is still in the Marriage Redemption business. How, specifically, will you apply today's material to your relationship this week?