

The Christian Arsenal

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OVERCOMING INCOMPATIBILITY (Differences) IN MARRIAGE HOME IMPROVEMENT

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Part 3 of 8
Ephesians 5:21

“Submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of God.” Eph. 5:21 (NKJV)

INTRO: “Whenever two people relate together closely, in a close intimate way, the issue that often has to be addressed first is, how do we deal with our differences”

Nursery Rhyme:

Jack Sprat could eat no fat. His wife could eat no lean.
And so between them both, you see, they licked the platter clean.

THREE THOUGHTS ABOUT INCOMPATIBILITY (Differences)

1. INCOMPABILITY IS A GIVEN.

G.K. Chesterton: “If we can be divorced for incompatibility, I cannot understand why we are not all divorced. I have known many happy marriages but never a compatible one.”

Definition of Marriage: The union of two imperfect people in an impossible relationship.

George Jessel: “Marriage is a mistake that every person ought to make.”

DIFFERENT MODELS OF MARRIAGE

- Marriage is like buying a new automobile.
 - Statement: I should trade in every few years.
- Marriage is like a box of broken parts.
 - Statement: Even though things are not working right now you are in the process of building something beautiful out of it.

2. SOURCES OF INCOMPATIBILITY

- God created us male and female
“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Genesis 1:27 (NKJV)

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- We also bring different family backgrounds.
- We have different styles of communicating.
- We also bring different personalities.

TYPE "A"

- Always in a hurry
- Always early for things
- does not like standing in line
- finish sentences for you finish.
- a deep sense of justice

TYPE "B"

- relaxed
- event oriented, not time
- talks to people in line
- will stare at you until you
- live and let live

3. OVERCOMING YOUR DIFFERENCES

- Learn how to release your partner to be him/herself
"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility, consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Phil. 2:3-7
- Understand your differences.
- Forgive your differences.

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God by Whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you." Eph 4:30-32

"For He knows how we are formed. He remembers that we are dust." Psalm 103:14

"He remembered that they were but flesh, a passing breeze that does not return." Psalm 78:38

Definition of forgiveness: Giving up my right to hurt you back.
The one who is set free is the one who forgives.

- Develop common interests
- Learn to give "love gifts"

Def: "Something you give to someone when you don't want to do it."

Rules for giving a love gift:

1. You can't ask for it.
2. You may not complain when you're doing it.

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3. The one who gives the gift gets the blessing.
- Celebrate your differences.

“Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Eph 5:20 (NKJV)

*“Something beautiful, something good
All our confusion, He understood.
All we had to offer Him was brokenness and strife,
But He made something beautiful of our lives.”
Bill & Gloria Gaither*