

FIGHT FOR CONNECTION | 5-8-16

REFLECT & DISCUSS

There are many things that threaten to disconnect a relationship: busyness, tension, conflict, past wounds, pride, and different personalities. These things can crack connection and grow into a rift of disconnection. What tends to create distance in your relationship? What does it take to reconcile the relationship...to restore connection? Why is it important to fight for connection?

2 Corinthians 5:16-19

What are some worldly ways to respond to conflict? Do you tend to stew (quietly simmer with anger) or spew (loudly respond in anger) when you are in a disagreement with your spouse? How could honoring them and giving them space be a better option? According to this passage, how did God handle the disconnect between Him and us? As new creations in Christ, how can we restore connection with those we love when there is a disconnect between us?

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

An ambassador is an authorized messenger...a trusted person who represents someone. How can we be Christ's ambassadors in our relationships? What's the difference between retaliation and reconciliation? Instead of counting our sins against us, Jesus took one for the team and sacrificed His life for us so that we could become the righteousness of God. What would it look like to live like this for your spouse?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Which one of these qualities of love do you struggle with? Which one do you excel in? How can you intentionally live out these qualities in your relationship? How can you have fun doing so?

CHALLENGE

Complete at least two of these four challenges this week:

- **Love is patient:** Love creates as much space, time, and margin as needed by the other person. In what area do you need to give your spouse space?
- **Love is kind:** Love takes into consideration how the other person feels ALL the time. Change a behavior that is inconsiderate to your spouse.
- **Love does not envy:** Envy is not wanting others to enjoy things you don't have. Envy says, "If I can't feel good about myself, I won't let you feel good about yourself." How can you praise your spouse for what they do well?
- **Love does not dishonor:** Dishonor is saying or doing something we will regret. Go out of your way to bring honor to your spouse this week.

PRAYER

Jesus, you came from heaven to earth to restore your connection with me. You did not count my sins against me but instead did what it took to fight for my freedom. Help me to demonstrate this kind of love in the relationships I'm in!

Written by John Grandy, Dalton Campus Pastor