



# LIFEGROUPS

**Series: *The Meaning  
of Intimacy***

**Message: *Trouble in Paradise***

**Scripture:  
*Song of Songs 5:1-6:13***

**Date: May 5 & 6, 2018**

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—[ LET'S START ]—

Last weekend Pastor Dale challenged us to focus on what is right about our spouse, parents, kids, co-workers, teachers or boss instead of focusing on negatives about them. Find a partner and share a situation where you intentionally tried this.

—[ LET'S TALK ]—

1. There are several things that can cause friction in a marriage, parenting or friendships. Some factors that contribute to *relationship fatigue* include: failure to communicate, financial difficulties, sexual frustrations, in-laws who become outlaws and raising kids. Share with your partner how you have seen one of these factors influencing a relationship and causing conflict.
2. In resolving conflict, several *nevers* were mentioned: never speak harshly, never confront publicly, never use children, never bring up the past, never involve family, never win by reasoning and arguing, and never use physical harm. What strategy can you employ to be sure you never use one of these? Discuss as a group.
3. Have one person read Song of Songs 5:4-5 aloud. Pastor Dale explained how the perfumed door latch was like leaving a love note in today's culture. If you were locked out of your home and your spouse would not answer the door, what would your reaction be? How do you take control and not react but select more considerate action?
4. How does forgiveness change perspective for both the forgiver and the forgiven?

—[ **LET'S ACT** ]—

Read Romans 5:8. Forgiveness precedes repentance. In reconciliation, it is not a matter of who wins and who loses; it is making losers into winners. Even when you are in conflict with someone, you still decide how you will respond. Instead of *reacting* to the situation, decide to *act*. Think of a conflict you are currently in. What would be the way to act rather than react and bring love into the offender's heart?

—[ **SERMON REVIEW** ]—

- Some of the elements that contribute to "relationship fatigue" include: failure to communicate, financial difficulties, sexual frustrations, in-laws who become outlaws and raising kids.
- In most conflicts, the difficulty is that we are mostly thinking of ourselves.
- We always have a choice of how we approach and respond to a conflict.
- Solomon's response was to create a path for his spouse that would lead to his heart of love for her.
- The most important part of conflict resolution is forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Repentance is preceded by forgiveness.

—[ **NOTES** ]—

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