



## How to Fight for Your Marriage

Jim Gerlach jim@ovbc.net 2.16.14 9:30 & 10:50 a.m.

- **Healthy couples choose to attack \_\_\_\_\_ instead of each other.**

*"If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other." Galatians 5:15*

### How to Fight for Your Marriage:

#### 1. Tear Up the \_\_\_\_\_

- **Marriage is a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_, not a contract.**

*<sup>4</sup> "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' <sup>5</sup> and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Matthew 19:4-6*

*<sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord . . .*

*<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her . . . Ephesians 5:21-22, 25*

#### 2. Take Out the \_\_\_\_\_

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

- **Un-confessed sin \_\_\_\_\_ relationships.**  
Deuteronomy 23:12-14

*<sup>26</sup> "In your anger do not sin" Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold . . .*

*<sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Ephesians 4:26-27, 31*

#### 3. Talk to \_\_\_\_\_ First About Your Spouse

*Without wood a fire goes out;*

*without a gossip a quarrel dies down. Proverbs 26:20*

*<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

- **Pray for and then \_\_\_\_\_ your spouse.**

*<sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16-17*

#### Next Steps: Connecting People to the Life-Changing Love of Christ

- Verse to Memorize: Ephesians 4:26
- Take the trash out in your life.
- Bring your spouse to church next Sunday and renew your wedding vows.
- Email jim@ovbc.net to sign up for "The Art of Marriage" February 28 - March 1.