



# the Counter Cultural Marriage

## How To Argue Without Destroying Your Home

### MAIN THING

Thou Shalt Argue With Thy Spouse As Thou Would Have Thy Spouse Argue With Thee

### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:12, Philippians 2:3-4, Proverbs 15:18, Proverbs 18:19, Proverbs 10:19

### ICEBREAKER

What are the biggest sources of conflict in the average home?

### OPENING THOUGHT

A marriage expert once said, "If two people in the house agree on everything, one of them is unnecessary." Every home and every marriage will have conflict. That's natural. That's okay. What we have to learn is how to do so in a way that honors God and brings glory to His name. We have to learn how to argue and what to do when there is conflict- there are definite right and wrong ways of dealing with it. The main thing to remember is that, especially in marital or home conflict, the Golden Rule still applies.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. The sermon said that "Belittling"- holding the feelings of your spouse in contempt or minimizing them as unimportant- is the number one killer of marriage communication. It can be verbal or non-verbal. What are some non-verbal ways we belittle each other? How has it been done to you? What do you successfully do in your own home to keep belittlement out of your relationship?
3. Dave listed five ways to argue without destroying your home. They are: 1) Take no offense when none is intended, 2) Approach how you want to be responded to, 3) Always argue in person, 4) Know what doesn't need to be said, and 5) The problem is the enemy, not your spouse. Which of these do you do well? Which of these need attention?

### LIFE APPLICATION

The sermon ended with an illustration about a car windshield and a rear view mirror. The windshield looking forward is larger than the rear view mirror for a reason- we are supposed to look far more at what is ahead than what is behind. How can you, this week, focus more on where you are going in life and marriage than where you've been?

### CHALLENGE

One of the things we are realizing as we tackle the problems of marriage is that so many couples simply don't know how to do marriage correctly. It's not that they are evil. It's not that they don't truly love their spouses. It's that they don't know what to do. Most of us repeat the patterns handed down to us by our parents or what we observe on TV. Sometimes that's good, often it is not. Those of you who are successful in marriage- will you take on the challenge of helping another couple not as far along as you? Will you help mentor other couples, possibly saving them from divorce?