



# Essential Understandings

- Contention or Conflict
  - Resolution
  - Brokenness
  - Forgiveness
  - Restoration

# Essential Understandings

## Contention or Conflict

- Prov. 18.19: “A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, And contentions are like the bars of a castle”
- Insight: You cannot let offense or conflict go unaddressed
- Results: Spouses whose hearts are barred shut, yet sleeping in the same bed

# Essential Understandings

## **Contention or Conflict**

- Prov. 20.3: “It is honorable for a man to stop striving, since any fool can start a quarrel.”
- Insight: It is an honor not to quarrel; it is not an honor to win the argument, to speak louder, to humiliate/embarrass the other person, to have the final word
- None of those things bring honor or respect

# Essential Understandings

## Contention or Conflict

- Prov. 17.14: “The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore, stop contention before a quarrel starts.”
- Key: Stop before it gets started
- Thus: Recognize what is going and diffuse the time bomb

# Essential Understandings

## **Contention or Conflict: See yourself**

1. Hatred vs. Love—Prov. 10.12: “Hatred (set against) stirs up strife, but love covers all sin”
2. Pride—Prov. 13.10: “By pride comes nothing but strife...” (Cf. 28.25)
3. Wrath—Prov. 15.18: “A wrathful man stirs up strife, but a man slow to anger allays contention” (Cf. 29.22 and Ja. 1.19—“For the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God”)

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## **Contention or Conflict: See yourself**

4. Contrary: Prov. 16.28—A perverse [fraud; root=to turn over] man sows strife & a whis-perer separates the best of friends (cf. 26.20)
5. Foolish words: Prov. 18.6: A fool's lips enter into contention...mouth calls for blows
6. Scoffer (mock; critical)—Prov. 22.10: Cast out the scoffer & contention will leave

# Essential Understandings

## **Contention or Conflict: See yourself**

### 7. Selfishness

- Warning: “Do not eat the delicacies of a miser (selfish man) nor desires the delicacies. For as he thinks in his heart, so he is. “Eat and drink!” he says to you, but his heart is not with you.
- “Miser”=evil eye; cf. 28.22: A man with an *evil eye* hastens after riches



# Essential Understandings

## **Contention or Conflict: Look at yourself**

### 7. Selfishness (cont'd)

- Death to self: "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition...look out not only for your own interests, but others...let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...who emptied himself...form of a bondservant ...obedient to death" Phil. 2.3-8
- Marriage: The god of selfishness must die

# Essential Understandings

## **Contention or Conflict: See yourself**

### 7. Selfishness: In Expectations

- Definition: Self imposed restriction upon another that assumes they know what you are thinking, desiring or doing
- Insight: It is a subtle and deadly form of selfishness
- Insight: It comes from the flesh; previous experience; prior home-life; etc.

# Essential Understandings

## **Contention or Conflict: See yourself**

### 7. Selfishness: In Expectations

- Psalm 62.5: "My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him"
- "expectation"=the thing longed for; root is to look for eagerly
- This is not your spouse, but the Lord; such puts your spouse in position to fail

# Essential Understandings

## Resolution

- Principle: Mt. 5.23: “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, & there re-member that your brother has something against you, go...first be reconciled...”
- “reconciled”=to be restored to normal relations; change feelings towards; make peace
- Cf. 1 Sam. 15.22; Is. 1.10-17; Hos. 6.6; Am. 5.21-24