

I didn't ~~sign up~~ for this.

Part One: "I Just Can't Do This Anymore!" // Toni Nieuwhof // February 14th, 2021

When couples are struggling, a husband or wife who is fed up will have complaints like: "He's so stubborn!" or "She always has to be right!" or "He's so irresponsible with our money!" When people decide to divorce, they may imagine they're packing their relationship complaints into a box to be sealed up or whisked away. The reality is that there will be another box--especially if you have kids--filled with all kinds of problems around parenting, money, community, etc. Plus, you still have the relationship complaints that remain unresolved. Could humility play a role in finding a solution to this dilemma? True humility takes courage and effort, but God's power protects you when you try to make your marriage better. He promises to lift you up in due time.

Scripture: [1 Peter 5:5-7](#)

Bottom Line: God gives you his strength when you let go of yours.

Please Note: Toni's message is not specifically directed towards anyone in a harmful marriage (which is very different from an unhappy marriage). If you are in an unsafe relationship, please speak privately with your group leader about finding help.

Getting Started:

As you begin, remember that the goal isn't to get through all of the questions but to use them as a tool for good discussion.

1. Is there a word you would use to describe how you are feeling about the discussions that might come out of this series? Share this word with your group.
2. Toni started the message with a vulnerable story about her relationship with Carey. Were you surprised to hear that their relationship has had its challenges? Why or why not?
3. Toni shared the story of Marcus and Katie, the fictional names of clients she worked with in her family law practice. Have you, or anyone you know, ever experienced the challenges of a dissolving relationship? Have you heard anyone say what Marcus said? "If only I'd known then what I know now, I would have worked harder to save my marriage."

Jumping In:

4. Read [1 Peter 5:5-7](#). What do we know about Peter's life that informs the depth of what he writes in these verses?
5. Toni invited us to ask God if our pride is causing our relationship to crumble. How have you seen pride serve as a source of relational distress in your relationship or in a relationship you have experienced up close?
6. Toni shared the questions Randy Gunter poses in order to uncover whether or not pride might be an issue in your life:
 - a. Are you a need-to-win person?
 - b. Do you fear a loss of control or power?
 - c. Do you find yourself acting as if you are the only person you can trust?
 - d. Do you portray an image that covers some hidden insecurities?

These are faces of pride. How do these questions sit with you?

7. The apostle Peter writes that "God opposes the proud." Why do you suppose God responds this way toward pride? What do you think it looks like for a prideful person to be in opposition to God?
8. Humility takes both courage and effort. What are examples of this that we can find in scripture?
9. How have you seen the effort of humility serve as a source of relational balm in a tense experience or relationship?
10. God's strength is available to us when we need courage to be humble in our relationships. He will provide "in due time" or "at the right time." Toni asked us to consider "Trust in God's perfect timing. How long is the due time? Would you rather have God's protection and favour in the due time? Or would you rather miss out on his power and protection in a lifetime?"

Moving Forward:

Try a criticism fast, either with your spouse or solo. If you're doing it together, it's up to your spouse, not you, who makes the call about whether you were critical or not.

Changing Your Mind:

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility, because "God opposes the proud, but shows favour to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5 NIV