

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

Part Three: The Time For Peace Is Now // Toni Nieuwhof // February 28th, 2021

It's common for couples who aren't getting along to start treating one another as opponents. But as Jesus reminds us, a house divided against itself cannot stand. Instead, we can choose to fight for 'we' instead of 'me.' When we agree to share power and operate as a team, we will be able to live out our marriage from a spirit of unity. Toni talked about three ways people can move past their conflict and bring more peace into their marriage.

Scripture: [Ephesians 5:21](#) NIV; [Galatians 3:26-28](#) NIV

Bottom Line: If 'I' win, 'we' lose.

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. On a scale from 1-10, how competitive are you? If you are in a relationship, how does this number compare to your partner's score?

Jumping In:

2. Is winning something you value? How so? Can you think of a time when the value you placed on winning differed from someone important to you and it caused complications in your relationship?
3. How would you define peace? Do you experience peace in your everyday life? Explain.

Discuss:

4. Read [Ephesians 5:21](#) in a couple of different Bible translations, as well as the verses immediately before and after. What stands out to you?
5. Toni said, 'In conflict, if I win, we lose.' What does this mean in the context of mutual submission? How is submission counter-cultural? Do you find this challenging, or would you say submission comes easily?
6. What does it look like to embrace submission as an act of worship? Have you seen someone worship in that way before? How did it make you feel?

7. How does the idea of fighting for 'we instead of me' inform how you interact with someone you find yourself at odds with? Consider a co-worker, neighbour, family member, or even the relationship you have with your partner. What would it take to embrace this idea in that specific relationship?
8. Read [Galatians 3:26-28](#). How do you understand the concept of unity? What does biblical unity look like? Have you experienced this in your relationships?
9. How can 'we' win and experience unity? Toni mentioned three steps that might be helpful: Communicate Better, Listen More, and Be Curious. Which step could your relationship benefit from?
10. In your relationship, does apologizing come easily, naturally, and spontaneously? Do you practice forgiveness regularly? Like Toni shared, are you a 'recovering grievance addict'? Explain.
11. Toni used the analogy that steps are built with a mix of stones (justice), mortar (mercy), and water (humility). Can you relate to what Toni said about 'making ourselves the judge'? And how we need to extend mercy with humility? How are each of these important in building a strong relationship?
12. What makes an apology sincere? What makes an apology sincere for you might be different than what makes it sincere for the other person in your relationship. What can we do in our relationships to understand each other in this? Have you had a difficult conversation that was worth the apology? Were you able to celebrate a win together?

Moving Forward:

Forgiveness is a common hurdle that people don't directly address. Following Jesus means finding the courage and humility to own your part and to apologize.

Make an apology. Ask Jesus, 'What do I need to apologize for? What do I need to own?'

(And extending forgiveness to one another is possible and flows out of the forgiveness that we have experienced through a relationship with Jesus.)

Changing Your Mind:

The path from 'me' to 'we' requires apology. The path toward unity requires forgiveness.

[For more content on forgiveness in the context of a married relationship, check out episode 20 of The Smart Family Podcast.](#)