

# Me to We 4

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Today, I want to equip you to "SAY SOMETHING!"

There will be very few marriages that don't come to a place where giving up seems like a viable option, if not the only option.

CAVEAT: Boundaries in destructive marriages require:

- Respect the choices, not the rhetoric of your partner.
- Abuse requires separation and accountability or divorce.
  - When the abuser demands that forgiveness that includes ignoring your safety, then you must protect yourself and your children.

If you are going to FIGHT, FIGHT for the things that matter!

A failing or struggling marriage can so overwhelm our emotions that we fail to discern what is of real value in our lives.

You're going to wish you fought for your family when this is all over.

Your PRIDE and NEED TO BE RIGHT will look very different in the future.

You must reconsider what you have deemed URGENT and your TOP PRIORITY!

- When there is extreme conflict and pain, holding your position is URGENT.
- When you are two years removed from a divorce, holding your position will not be what you consider URGENT.

### 3 Things that Hinder Restoration

#### 1. PRIDE – Takes God out of the equation

**James 4:6-10** – <sup>6</sup> But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. **NIV**

- Pride is when I lift **my way** above **God's way**.
- Humility is when I lift up **god's way**, above **my way**.

- Pride removes God from the equation of my marriage—God resists the proud.
- Humility brings **grace** or **divine enablement**. This **enablement** transcends all other influences in your life.
- If you are **unwilling** to **humble yourself**, you will never receive the help that you need.
- Humility will cause you to focus on yourself and not the faults in your spouse.
- Abandon yourself to God!
- Your desire to **make it right** must supersede your desire to **be right**.
- Selflessly, meeting each other's needs is one of the greatest **builders of trust** in marriage.
- Taking each other for granted can slowly deteriorate the spirit of a marriage.
- Humility brings God into your marriage and **he will lift it up!**

## 2. CONDEMNATION – Ties you to your past

**Condemn** – To be declared reprehensible and pronounced guilty.

**Romans 8:1-2** – <sup>1</sup> Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. *NIV*

- Our sin **always leads to death**, but Jesus sets us free from that process.
- Jesus sets you free from the **pronouncements** of your past.

## 3. DISCOURAGEMENT & FEAR - Ties you to the present

**Joshua 1:9** - Yes, be bold and strong and courageous! Banish fear and doubt! For remember, the Lord your God is **with you** wherever you go."

- **Fear and discouragement** will demand that you continue to live in your present condition.
- **Discouragement and fear** cause you to see God absent from your future.

## YOU HAVE A CHOICE TODAY!

You can continue to live in a “deadlock of selfishness” or you can **humble yourself** and receive the **grace of God** into your situation.