

Unity

I. The Fundamentals

- A. Division is dangerous
- B. God calls us to unity
- C. Unity is work. And it is a good work.
- D. Scripture gives us a pattern.

II. The Short Road

- A. Behavior/Action (*Joshua 22: 10*)
- B. Misunderstanding (*Joshua 22:11-12*)
- C. The Work (*Joshua 22:16*)
- D. Reconciliation (*Joshua 22:30*)
- E. Forgiveness for misunderstanding

III. The Long Road

- A. Humility (*Luke 6:42*)
- B. The heart (*James 4:1, Galatians 6:2*)
- C. Grace (*James 4:6*)
- D. Submit (*James 4:7-8a*)
- E. Cleanse (*James 4:8b*)
- F. Action (*James 4:9-10*)
- G. Forgiveness for sin (*2 Corinthians 13:11*)

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Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Refer to the Things to Say to Defuse an Argument.* What are a few of the items you would personally find beneficial to say to defuse an argument or misunderstanding?
- 2) Think of a misunderstanding that has happened in the past, you are currently going through, or you could foresee happening in the future. What are some of these principles we discussed today that you would like to put in action?
- 3) Pray for each other. Pray that we would be women of reconciliation.

Things to Say to Defuse an Argument

1. I really appreciate your concern about this.
2. Thank you for being interested in this problem.
3. I am glad you are concerned about this.
4. Am I hearing you correctly?
5. Am I hearing you right? Is this what you are saying?
6. Would you repeat that please?
7. Could you repeat that in a different way?
8. I see this is important to you; therefore, it is to me.
9. Let me think about that for a minute.
10. (Show genuine concern about mate's feelings!)
11. Thank you for taking time to share this with me.
12. Do you have any suggestions as to what I could do to improve in this area? (Show appreciation!)
13. Did I hear you say it upsets you when I... (Have a thankful spirit!) Thank you for sharing this with me.
14. Are you saying you want me to discuss issues of this kind with you before I make a decision? (Be thankful!)
15. I am interested in what you are saying, but I'm not clear about what you mean. Could you say it another way?
16. Let me see if I am hearing you correctly.
17. How could I do that differently?
18. What, exactly, is it you see that I am doing; or doing wrong?
19. I was not clearly seeing that.
20. Thank you for bringing that to my attention.
21. I am glad you pointed that out to me.
22. When did that happen? I wasn't alert to that. (Be careful about the use of this statement. Make sure it is true!)
23. I see that is important to you so I'll make it a point to be more alert to it.