

Tug of War
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1. Adam related the Cherokee legend of the black and white wolf. The one who won the contest was the one who had been fed. Adam then used two scriptures to represent the flesh and the spirit. Read Galatians 5:19-23 for a partial description of the flesh and Spirit.

Which of the qualities listed in the description of the flesh have you seen Christians manifest?

What was the result of these actions in their lives and the lives of those around them?

What of the qualities of the fruit of the spirit have you witnessed in fellow Christians?

Why is there no law against the fruit of the spirit?

How do we feed the flesh?

How do we feed the spirit?

2. What three sets of two things that often vie against each other did Adam use in his outline? (**Happiness vs. Holiness, Me-Centered vs. Spouse-Centered, Child-centered vs. Marriage-Centered.**)

What option was better than any of the six? (**Jesus or the cross.**)

3. Ecclesiastes 9:9 says “Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love.” Besides sex (which for most will be a given), what are some ways you enjoy your mate?

4. Proverbs 27:17 says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

What does this mean?

Give an example of how mates or friends have “sharpened” one another.

5. How have you witnessed someone “throwing their mate under the bus” (figuratively of course) with friends or acquaintances or even in front of the mate?

6. How has a friend encouraged you to build up a mate or to strengthen your marriage or relationship?

7. What is an example of bad advice someone has given you in general or in your marriage or relationship?

8. In Ephesians 6:4, we are told not to “exasperate” our children but to “bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

How have you exasperated or discouraged your child?

Give a specific example of a time you were able to teach your child something specific about God. (Or given a specific example of what someone taught you about the Lord.)

9. Does your family have a group devotion time presently? Why or why not? Do you think it would make a difference in your marriage and/or family?

10. When Jesus is asked what the greatest commandment is, he replies: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

The repetition of the prepositional modifiers seems significant. Explain how each individual object—heart, soul, mind, strength—completes what it is to love God.

11. Jesus adds that the second commandment is, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” In Matthew 22:40, he says that all the law and prophets hang on these two commandments. How does that prove true?

Who is our neighbor?

How does being Jesus centered affect our mates, children, and other relationships?