



Marriage // The Struggle is Real // Part 6

Introduction:

This week Matt concludes a new series called '**Marriage // The Struggle is Real**' with the message for **Part 6**. This week we are looking at conflict in marriage. How do you finish well in marriage? If marriage is a picture of the covenant relationship with God, when do you need to lean on that covenant?

When things are hard, when life and marriage gets challenging, what is there to bind you together and hold you when the difficult days come? What can you do as a couple to finish well? What does it take to stick to the covenant and leave behind you a generational blessing?

Questions:

1. Would you agree that in marriage, you are both bringing the best and the worst of you together into this new thing? What is the covenant (the vows) and promises you make there for?
2. If there are multiple different **seasons** in marriage, when is the covenant that you entered into together more important, during the good seasons or the difficult seasons? When do you most need to lean on that covenant? Does it help to know that the difficult ones are just a season and not forever? What can you learn about seasons from David? In all those seasons, where is God?

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; Acts 13:36

3. What is **sanctification**? If in marriage, you are bringing the best and the worst of you both, why is the sanctification of both of you important to remember? Can

sanctification help you deal with challenging things like sharing the same bathroom? **Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

4. If the sanctification of both of you is so critical in marriage, why is it important to remember that God is the one who does the saving and you didn't do that? Can you trust that He is still doing that for both of you going forward, and you have a front row seat to the lifelong process of your spouse's sanctification? **Philippians 1:6**
5. Do you know that God is a God of process? Why is it both wonderful and awful that you are both being 'transformed into His image from one degree of glory to another'? Do you just wish for a silver bullet theology where His process would go a little bit faster? Do you know you're not failing if it feels like it's going slow? **2 Corinthians 3:18**
6. In a difficult, horrible season how is it different that instead of asking the question why, you ask God 'what are you trying to teach me in this season'? Can you enjoy the ride of the highs and lows if you remember that He's with you, He will not abandon you and will complete the work in you? **Ecclesiastes 3:13**
7. Do you know that you will leave something behind you for the generations to come? What kind of wake are you leaving behind you, positive or negative? What does it take for you to leave a **generational blessing** behind you, and finish strong in your marriage? **Ecclesiastes 3:14**

Key takeaway: In marriage, God's working, you're both being sanctified. But as you live out God's plan and trust Him in the seasons, you can leave a legacy where that phrase, till death do us part, isn't just a tag line. It's a vow. And my prayer for us is legacy, finishing well. Embracing generational blessing and living out what God intended marriage to be. It's all about finishing.

Summary:

- In marriage you're bringing in the best of us and the worst of us and now we're doing this thing together in a covenant relationship

- In every life there are seasons, there are good seasons and difficult seasons and everything in between, you don't need the covenant in the good seasons but you really do in the difficult ones
- Sanctification = the life long process of being made more like Jesus, in marriage both of us are in process
- Jesus will complete the good work He began in you, you didn't save yourself God did it and He's still doing it your whole life
- God is a God of process, one degree of glory to the next
- In a difficult season don't ask why, ask God what are you trying to teach me? So take pleasure in the days, enjoy the ride and trust that He will finish the good work in you, He will complete it
- Leave behind a wake of generational blessing, whatever God does endures forever, even when we can't see it, finish strong