

# Resolving Conflict in Marriage

Constructive vs. Destructive  
Dynamics

- 2 Cor. 6:14—Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?

# Definitions of Conflict

- *(Webster's New World Dictionary)*
  - (n) a fight or struggle.
  - (n) sharp disagreement or opposition , as of interests or ideas.
  - (n) emotional disturbance resulting from opposing impulses.
- **Marriam Webster Dictionary**
  - *(v) to clash*
  - *(n) a clash between hostile or opposing elements, ideas, or forces.*

# Constructive or Destructive Conflict

## ■ Destructive Conflict

- “A conflict is destructive—has destructive consequences—if the participants in it are dissatisfied with the outcomes and all feel they have lost as a result of the conflict” (Augsburger 1998, p. 47)
- A work of discommunity occurs!!

## ■ Constructive Conflict

- “A conflict is constructive in its process and consequences if all participants are satisfied with the outcome and feel that they have gained as a result of the conflict” (Augsburger 1998, p. 47)
- A building work occurs!!

Conflict can be viewed as  
an opportunity for growth!!

# Unequally Yoked? How So?

- Participants may not reach agreement based on their level of development.
- Level of growth differs from one sphere/environment to another.
- Level of understanding about the subject may differ based on knowledge.

# Conflict Situations

How can we move from a destructive to a constructive outcome?

- Breakdown in communication
- Dealings with finances
- Discounting spouse's contributions in family decisions
- Imbalance created by slackers in the family