

## “Fighting fair”

Genesis 3:12

### 1. Why we fight, theologically speaking.

- 2:25 – *“They were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”*
- 3:7 – *“After eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil...their eyes were opened...”*
- 3:12-13 – *“It was the woman You gave me...it was the serpent...and I ate...”*
- 3:16 – *“Your desire shall be for [to rule] your husband and he shall rule over you.”*

### 2. Why we fight, psychologically speaking.

- Movement from nose to nose to side by side...from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
- The path to partnership is through the valley of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Out of fear and flesh, we try to deal with our disillusionment through:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

“Many of us fall in love with the promise that in surrendering to our beloved, all of our unhealed places, all of the old wounds we carry from childhood, will be rectified, or at the least, permanently avoided. We will at long last be delivered...from our unfinished business.”

“But, as it turns out, life with the partner we chose often precisely replicates the very dramas from which we sought refuge. Our marriage does not automatically heal us. In fact, in our marriage, our baggage reappears – and it is in this phase that many give up, get divorced and move on down the road. What is needed is the motivation and skill to move through the disillusionment to repair, which will eventually allow us to live ‘side by side.’”  
[Terrance Real, “How Can I Get Through To You”]

### 3. How to fight, practically speaking. [cf. Genesis 3:15, 21; Ephesians 5:21]

- How to \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.
- How to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. [cf. Eph. 4:32]
- How to \_\_\_\_\_. [cf. Eph. 6:18]
- How to \_\_\_\_\_.

“The truth is that relationships do not make us happy. Relationships are the crucible in which we get to work on ourselves, in which we have the opportunity to stretch, grow, and if we are fortunate, thrive.” [Terrance Real]

