Sermon Notes

Scripture: Song of Solomon 5:2-6:13
Speaker: Andy Deane
Date: 5/10/2026

Happy Mother's Day! Today we celebrate moms, but we also know even the strongest relationships experience conflict. In Song of Songs 5:2–6:13, we discover that fighting is normal, but fighting right shows you still care, and through grace, humility, and the example of Jesus, conflict can become an opportunity to deepen love instead of destroy it.

Fighting is normal... but fighting right shows you still care.

Our closest relationships still require grace

Song of Songs 5:2-4, She says: 2 I slept but my heart was awake. Listen! My beloved is knocking: "Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one. My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night." 3 I have taken off my robe— must I put it on again? I have washed my feet— must I soil them again? 4 My beloved thrust his hand through the latch-opening; my heart began to pound for him.

- He was late, and that hurt her feelings, she locked the door.
- On this particular occasion work won out over the wife and the challenge of time management had beaten them.

7 Principles for Fighting Better

#1 Ask God to shape your response

Song of Songs 5:5-6, She says: 5 I arose to open for my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with flowing myrrh, on the handles of the bolt. 6 I opened for my beloved, but my beloved had left; he was gone. My heart sank at his departure. I looked for him but did not find him. I called him but he did not answer.

- She was hurtful, but he didn't match her (Romans 12:21).
- His response, not anger, but simply a non-threatening display of love, awakened a loving response from her.

#2 Let God deal with their heart

Song of Songs 5:7, She says: 7 The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. They beat me, they bruised me; they took away my cloak, those watchmen of the walls!

- The watchmen mistook her for a criminal. This treatment may reflect the guilt she felt. This sequence is obviously a dream as this scenario is unlikely.
- She is chastened, but not by Solomon. God has his ways to teach us lessons.

#3 Refocus on what you love about them

Song of Songs 5:8-16, She says: 8 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you— if you find my beloved, what will you tell him? Tell him I am faint with love. Friends say: 9 How is your beloved better than others, most beautiful of women? How is your beloved better than others, that you so charge us? She says: 10 My beloved is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand. 11 His head is purest gold; his hair is wavy and black as a raven. 12 His eyes are like doves by the water streams, washed in milk, mounted like jewels. 13 His cheeks are like beds of spice yielding perfume. His lips are like lilies dripping with myrrh. 14 His arms are rods of gold set with topaz. His body is like polished ivory decorated with lapis lazuli. 15 His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of pure gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as its cedars. 16 His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, this is my friend, daughters of Jerusalem.

- The daughters of Jerusalem do not just sympathize with her. They help her remember why she loves him. Surround yourself with friends like this!
- As she recounts his worth, her indifference fades.

#4 Don't follow your feelings, lead them

Song of Songs 6:1-3, Friends say: 1 Where has your beloved gone, most beautiful of women? Which way did your beloved turn, that we may look for him with you? She says: 2 My beloved has gone down to his garden, to the beds of spices, to browse in the gardens and to gather lilies. 3 I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine; he browses among the lilies.

- What is actually needed in your conflict's moment?
- Do they need space to cool off, or do they need to be pursued?

#5 Release the offense through grace

Song of Songs 6:4-10, He says: 4 You are as beautiful as Tirzah, my darling, as lovely as Jerusalem, as majestic as troops with banners. He says: 5 Turn your eyes from me; they overwhelm me. Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Gilead. 6 Your teeth are like a flock of sheep coming up from the washing. Each has its twin, not one of them is missing. 7 Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate. 8 Sixty queens there may be, and eighty concubines, and virgins beyond number; 9 but my dove, my perfect one, is unique, the only daughter of her mother, the favorite of the one who bore her. The young women saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines praised her. Friends say: 10 Who is this that appears like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, majestic as the stars in procession?

- His first words are affirmation, not accusation!
- He practices forgiveness and forgetfulness (Proverbs 10:12).

#6 Rebuild the relationship with reassurance

Song of Songs 6:11-12, She says: 11 I went down to the grove of nut trees to look at the new growth in the valley, to see if the vines had budded or the pomegranates were in bloom. 12 Before I realized it, my desire set me among the royal chariots of my people. Friends say: 13 Come back, come back, O Shulammite; come back, come back, that we may gaze on you! He says: Why would you gaze on the Shulammite as on the dance of Mahanaim?

- His words made her feel that their love: springtime again.
- He proudly places her in his royal chariot to elevate her.
- Shulamite? This is the only verse in the Song of Solomon where the name Shulamite is used. It may indicate someone from the Galilean village of Shunam. The name may also simply be the feminine form of the name Solomon, indicating their close unity. It would be like 'Don and Donna' in our language.
- Mahanaim? This likely refers to a well-known regional or cultural dance familiar to the original audience. The idea is that the Shulammite woman moved with such beauty, joy, and grace that people could not look away. It paints a picture of celebration, admiration, and restored delight in their relationship.

#7 Avoid the #common mistakes that derail relationships

- Text MISTAKES to (951)425-4425 to join a 4-day micro journey that will help you avoid 20 relationship mistakes. It's just 5 minutes of reading each day on your phone.

Gospel Connection

Some of you are thinking about the other person right now... what they need to change, what they said, what they did. But the Holy Spirit may be pointing somewhere else. Not to shame you, but to transform you.

Jesus didn't come only to change others. He came to change us. He carried our sin, pride, and harshness to the cross and offers us a new way to live marked by grace, humility, and love.

So the invitation today is bigger than just fighting better. It's following Jesus more closely and reflecting His grace in our relationships.

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