

Opposites Attack

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I. Introduction.

A. Most of us are not extremists according to marriage differences.

II. Keys to living with your spouse: knowing, understanding, adjusting and accepting.

A. Knowing means to study your spouse.

B. Understanding requires us to know why a person does what he or she does through communication and prayer. (James 1:5)

C. We have to make adjustments when we learn.

D. Some things will not change, and we need to accept them with positive intent.

III. Using positive reinforcements.

IV. True communication is the meeting of meaning.

A. Objective people need to ask subjective people how they feel about things.

B. Communication is complex.

1. What you mean to say.

2. What you actually say.

3. What the other person hears.

4. What the other person thinks he or she hears.

5. What the other person says you said.

6. What you think the other person says what you said.

C. Good communication requires a lot of work.

D. God can help us in communication when we trust him. (Proverbs 3:3-6)

E. Busyness is an enemy of the communication process. (Psalm 139:23-24)

Application questions:

1. What are the keys to dealing with marriage differences?

2. Which key to dealing with marriage differences do you find to be most challenging? What can you to improve?

3. What does healthy communication look like and require between spouses? Explain.
