

# THE OUTLINE

## PART 1

### VALUES OF FAMILY MINISTRY

- STRONG MARRIAGES

- Confident Parents

- Empowered Kids

- Healthy Leaders

### A STRATEGY TO MINISTER TO MARRIAGES IN YOUR MINISTRY

- Be intentional about building strong marriages

- Offer the vision of a strong marriage (be real)

- Connect with their pain and struggles

- Create a list of topics

- Keep it practical and keep it real

## THE ONE PERCENT FACTOR

### Helping Marriages Succeed

- The stages of relationships...
  - How to know if you are in love and the Purity Code (Help kids)
  - Getting Ready for Marriage
  - First Few Years of Marriage
  - Refreshing Your Marriage - What are you doing to keep marriages strong in your church?

### What Can a Church Offer?

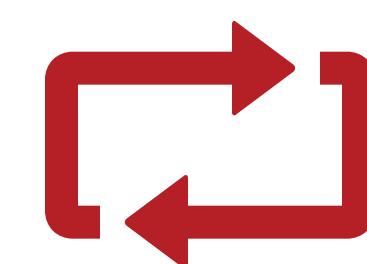
- Resources
  - Marriage Mentoring
  - Counseling and counseling referrals
  - Conferences
  - Seminars
  - Courses
  - Small Groups

# GETTING READY FOR MARRIAGE

(This is great for premarital and those seriously dating)

# Are You Ready?

1. Are you willing to work on premarital education?
2. Are you willing to hear from your relational community?
3. Are you willing to look honestly at red flags?
  - Addiction
  - Abuse
  - Unfaithfulness
  - Cohabitation
  - Sexual activity
  - Pregnancy
  - Different spiritual values
  - Poor communication and conflict skills
  - Unresolved issues with a previous spouse or relationship
4. Are you willing to be brutally honest about your own brokenness?
5. Are you ready for unconditional commitment?



## PERSONAL & GROUP REFLECTION

### PART 1

#### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

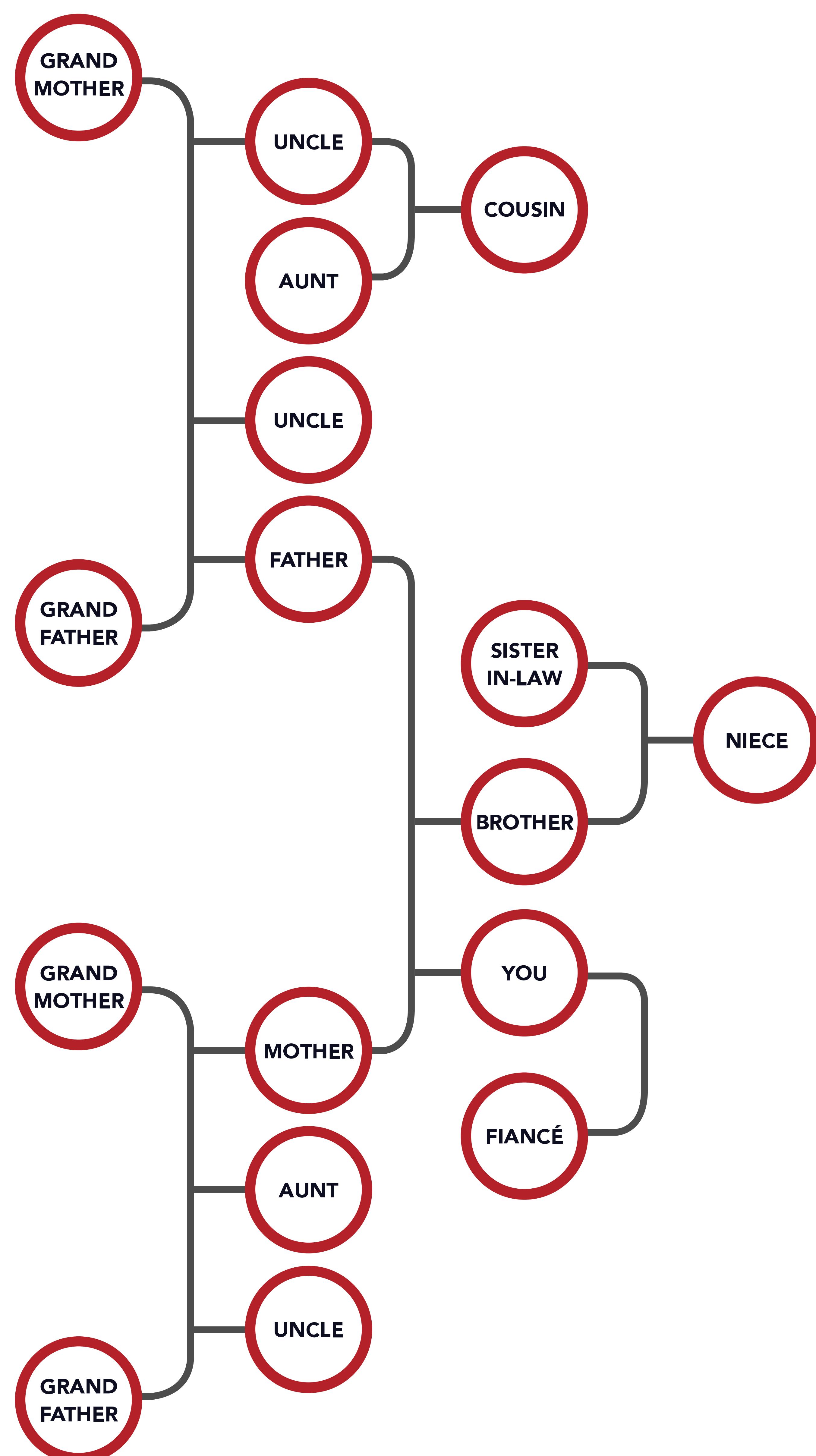
1. The one percent factor is a powerful illustration of reducing the divorce rate by just one percent. This changes the trajectory of over one million kids. Why is this key to a marriage and family?
2. How effectively is your church reaching each of the stages of relationships? What do you do best and what needs the most work?
3. The church can offer great resources to build strong marriages. Which of the resources Jim mentioned is your church doing and which are they not yet doing yet? Is there a resource that your church could work on this year to be more effective in this area?
4. The section “Are You Ready for Marriage?” could save a lot of pain in marriages. Which areas stuck out in your mind as critical to the success or failure of a marriage?
5. Why do you think dealing with the in-law situation before you get married is critical in premarital education?

# THE OUTLINE

## PART 2

### IN-LAWS: YOU MARRY THE FAMILY

#### Your Family Map



Start with great grandparents if you can

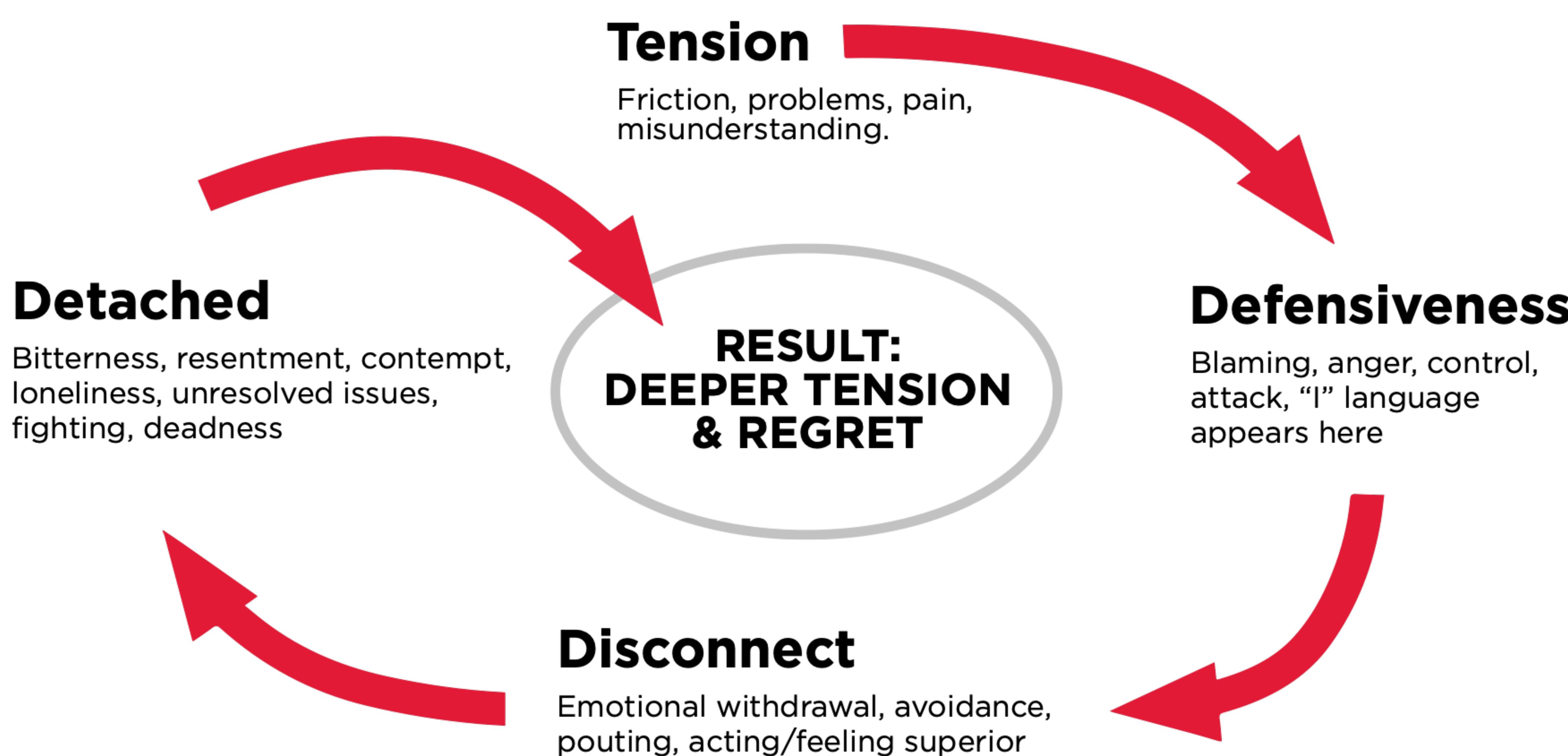
- Addictions
- Marriage and divorce: what was your parents' relationship like
- Health issues: serious medical issues, mental issues
- Conflicts with in-laws or extended families
- Faith and values
- Communication styles

**Honor your extended family**

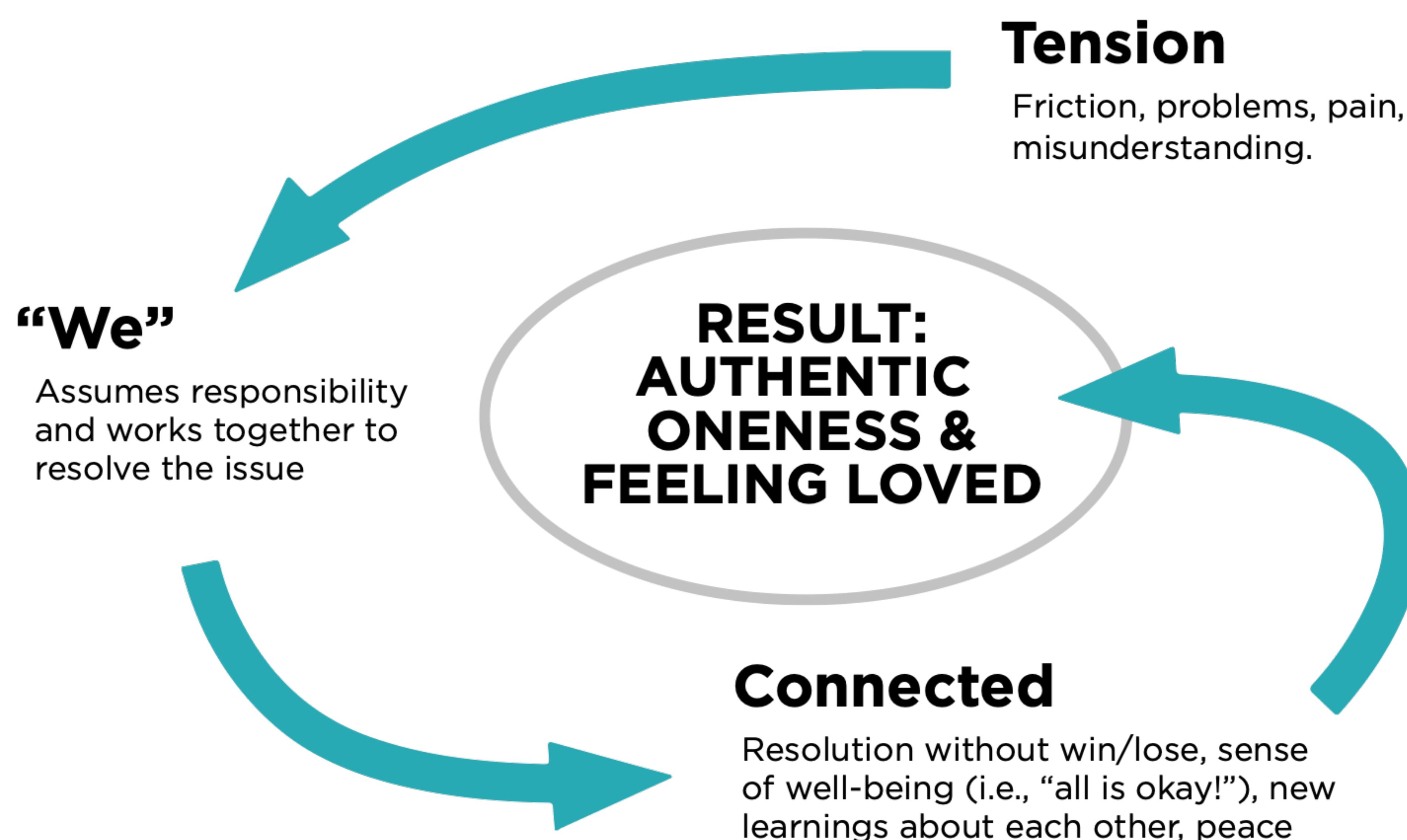
## COMMUNICATION AND CONFLICT

- Communication is a learned trait

## NEGATIVE CONFLICT DANCE

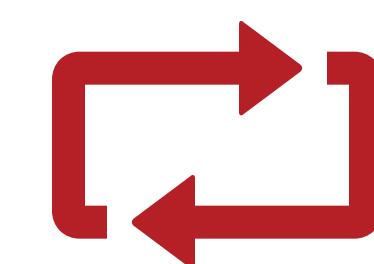


## POSITIVE CONFLICT DANCE



## CREATE A SIMPLE WORKABLE FINANCIAL PLAN

- Make a budget and stick to it
- Deal with your debt
- Delay gratification and get on the same page
- Give and save



## PERSONAL & GROUP REFLECTION

### PART 2

#### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. How can the Family Map help couples become more compatible?
2. How can couples honor their family when their family is quite dysfunctional?
3. How have you experienced the principle that “communication is a learned trait”?
4. Why is it easy to fall into the poor habits of dancing the negative conflict dance? Name ways it is destructive to a relationship.
5. What makes the positive conflict dance harder to accomplish? What are positive and helpful results of this dance in communication and conflict?

## THE OUTLINE

### PART 3

#### SEXUALITY

- Develop a Healthy View of Sexuality: Helping them build a solid foundation

Mixed messages

- Parents: Don't do it or silence
- Church: Don't do it because it's dirty, rotten and sinful; save that dirty rotten, sinful thing for marriage!
- Secular: This is how you do it and use birth control

#### A THEOLOGY OF HEALTHY SEXUALITY

God created sex

Genesis 2:18-25

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He sees it as good

Genesis 1:26-31

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Adultery

Exodus 20:14

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Fornication

I Thessalonians 4:3

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One Flesh

Matthew 19:4-6

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Sexual Purity

I Corinthians 6:18-20

## LIVE BY THE PURITY CODE

### The Purity Code Pledge

In honor of God, my family, and my future spouse, I commit my life to sexual purity.

### This involves:

- Honoring God with my body
- Renewing my mind for the good
- Turning my eyes from worthless things
- Guarding my heart above all else

- Thoughts on the science of cohabitation

- Greater chance of divorce
- Greater chance of adultery
- Less sexual satisfaction

- Sex before marriage equals instant intimacy

## SPIRITUALITY

- Compatibility
- Developing Spiritual Intimacy
  - Prayer
  - Worship
  - Accountability and support
  - The Closer Challenge

## REMARRIAGE

- What have you learned from your past?
- Successfully blending a family
- Remarriage Readiness Survey (see next page)

## REMARRIAGE READINESS SURVEY

1. I believe I have learned all I can from my past marriage and made the appropriate adjustments and changes.

	Not at All			So-So			Absolutely			
<b>Me</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Fiancé</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2. I am coming into this marriage with appropriate expectations.

	Not at All			So-So			Absolutely			
<b>Me</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Fiancé</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

3. I have dealt with all that I can from my past.

	Not at All			So-So			Absolutely			
<b>Me</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Fiancé</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4. [If there are children] My fiancé and I are on the same page about stepchildren and parenting issues.

	Not at All			So-So			Absolutely			
<b>Me</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Fiancé</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

5. I have not kept secrets from my fiancé.

	Not at All			So-So			Absolutely			
<b>Me</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Fiancé</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

6. I have lived my physical relationship with my fiancé with integrity and honor.

	Not at All			So-So			Absolutely			
<b>Me</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Fiancé</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

7. I have discussed all financial issues and responsibilities with my fiancé.

	Not at All			So-So			Absolutely			
<b>Me</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Fiancé</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

8. I have talked to my extended community and invited them to give me input into our relationship.

	Not at All			So-So			Absolutely			
<b>Me</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Fiancé</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

9. There are no red flags in our relationship that I have not either dealt with or are dealing with in a healthy way.

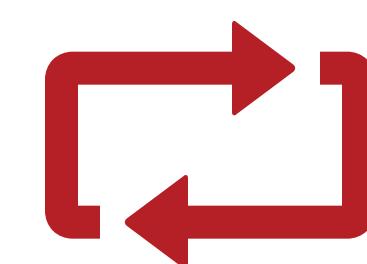
	Not at All			So-So			Absolutely			
<b>Me</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Fiancé</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

10. I understand the communication and conflict issues of our relationship and believe I have the tools to thrive.

	Not at All			So-So			Absolutely			
<b>Me</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Fiancé</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

11. I believe I am ready for remarriage.

	Not at All			So-So			Absolutely			
<b>Me</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Fiancé</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10



## PERSONAL & GROUP REFLECTION

### PART 3

#### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think it is so difficult for people to talk about their view of sexuality in premarital education/counseling?
2. Is the Purity Code realistic in today's culture? What is the best way to approach a healthy sexuality while realizing that some couples have already compromised their standards?
3. Cohabitation is a major factor in relationships today and some of the studies Jim mentioned have deep concerns for relationship experts. How do you approach cohabitation with a couple who is living together before marriage?
4. Studies reveal that the success rate of a second (or more) marriage is lower than a first marriage. Jim contends that couples who are getting married for a second time must do the work to learn from their past relationship. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
5. Blending a family is not easy. What are principles you have learned to help people in this area?