

Enemy:

A person who is actively opposed or hostile to someone or something



We have an enemy and it is NOT our spouse! From the very beginning, Satan has sought to destroy marriage and also from the very beginning husbands and wives have tended to blame each other and view each other as the enemy rather than battling their true enemy. We see this very clearly in Genesis, Chapter 3. Peter wrote that “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (1Peter 5:8) Satan especially desires to destroy marriages - when a marriage fails, the earthly representation of the very nature of God is ripped apart. Satan is one who is actively opposed and hostile to you and your marriage.

But, there is another enemy of our marriages. This enemy is not so open about it’s opposition to our marriages. That would be ourselves! James asked: “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you?” (James 4:1) So often couples have a conflict that ends up in a battle that can rage for days or even weeks. Why? Because they are more interested in their own selfish desires than they are in the good of their spouse or the marriage. It is amazing how couples who proclaim to love each other can be so incredibly unloving and downright hateful towards each other, treating each other as an enemy.

To effectively deal with the enemy of our marriage, Peter wrote in 1Peter 5:8 that we first must “Be alert and of sober mind.” We must consciously remember our spouse is NOT our enemy and seek to love him or her as Christ loves us - sacrificially. Paul wrote in 2Corinthians 10 that we do not fight like the world, but with God’s weapons; love, prayer, and the word of God. We have the power to overcome the flesh and Satan because we are children of God (1John 4:4). John admonishes us to *love one another* - that is sacrificially giving of ourselves. We must stand together against those who are hostile to our marriages, even if it is our own selfishness.

James continued in chapter 4 to challenge us to submit to God and resist the devil; then, the devil will flee, he will gain no foot hold in our lives or marriage. Paul wrote in Ephesians 6 that we are to put on the full armor of God so that we can take our stand against the devil’s schemes. Satan wants to destroy your marriage, you must actively stand against him and stand against your own selfish desires to protect your marriage against the opposition that will come against it. Be alert! Do what is necessary to build a strong marriage that *will* stand the enemy that seeks to destroy it.

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page: www.fortifiedmarriages.com*

The Fortified Marriages Manual & Workbook helps couples develop a strong marriage that will stand against their enemy. Also see:

The Enemy of Your Marriage by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth - www.familylife.com

The Enemy of Marriage by Steve and Cindy Wright - marriagemissions.com/enemy-of-marriage