



**THE POWER OF COOPERATIVE FAITH:**  
*Guarding against the bandits of our marriages*  
**Phil. 4.1-7**

*I have four goals for this series of message on marriage and relationships:*

1. I want your marriage (or relationship) to honor God.
2. I want your marriage to be the marriage God is pleased to bless.
3. I want your marriage to last.
4. I want your marriage to be a blessing to this church.

*What if you are divorced?*

1. Divorce is not the unpardonable sin.
2. God is the God of grace, forgiveness, and healing.
3. Make a commitment to submit yourself to God and His word going forward in any future relationships you may have.

**I. The \_\_\_\_\_ of COOPERATIVE FAITH**

*"Face-to-face time is heart-to-heart time<sup>1</sup>."*

The PURPOSE of cooperative faith is to help each other \_\_\_\_\_

**II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of COOPERATIVE FAITH**

In vv. 2-7 there are seven different attitudes and actions that can be bandits in our marriages if we are not paying attention:

**a.** \_\_\_\_\_

To "live in harmony" means to \_\_\_\_\_

**Phil. 2.3-4** is key here:

*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*

When couples are not on the same page the bandit of \_\_\_\_\_ shows up and can create a mess, pitting one spouse against the other.

**b.** \_\_\_\_\_

STRUGGLE: to \_\_\_\_\_ another person.

When couples fail to labor together for the cause of their marriage and for the cause of Christ, the bandit of \_\_\_\_\_ shows up and brings discord in the marriage.

<sup>1</sup> Emerson Eggerichs, *Love and Respect* (Nashville: W Publishing Group, 2004), 126-27.

Work together as the team God brought you together to be for the sake of the gospel.

c. \_\_\_\_\_

Why are we are so quick to complain and slow to rejoice?

\_\_\_\_\_ is a very powerful bandit because we seem to find more to \_\_\_\_\_ about in our marriages than we do to praise the Lord about – shame on us!

d. \_\_\_\_\_

The GENTLE SPIRIT means to be \_\_\_\_\_

Our marriages are made up of two people with two different personalities and different ways of looking at life and different ways of reacting to life. If we are not kind and considerate, if we just want it to be about \_\_\_\_\_, then the bandit of \_\_\_\_\_ shows up and makes a mess of things.

e. \_\_\_\_\_

ANXIOUS means to be \_\_\_\_\_ or to be troubled with care.

SUPPLICATION is simply making a \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is probably one of the most dangerous of all the bandits in our marriages. Prayerlessness and the lack of \_\_\_\_\_ will wreck our walk with Christ and will wreck our marriages.

f. \_\_\_\_\_

Lack of thanksgiving is the bandit of being \_\_\_\_\_

g. \_\_\_\_\_

You will never have the peace \_\_\_\_\_ God until you are at peace \_\_\_\_\_ God, and that only takes place through a \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus Christ.

III. The \_\_\_\_\_ because of cooperative faith

**Ecc. 4.9-10, 12:**

***Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.***

***And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.***