

# 3 FOLD CORD

Building Lasting Marriages on a Firm Foundation

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## *Weekly Devotional*

### WEEK FOURTEEN -

#### *A House Divided*

*And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.*

Mark 3:23 (NKJV)

Strife, independence, and pride are the big three that have the potential to bring a house down. Competition, selfishness, and stubbornness can be contributing factors as well. So, what's beneath the surface of these enemies to harmony in the home? Strife can be manifested due to unspoken hurts past or present. Independence may spring from an inner vow, whereas pride operates from lack of humility. Competition has roots in pride. Selfishness can be due to a fear of losing our identity, while stubbornness can often be contributed to feeling a loss of our security. Any one of these, can bring about strife and contention in the home.

The word divide is defined as, *to separate into parts, to form a border or barrier between, to cause to separate into opposing factions; disunite.*

Whatever the cause, division within the marital relationship can be detrimental if it's not met head on and firmly dealt with. Its goal is separation and dissolution of the marriage all together, breaking up *your* happy home.

The Bible teaches us not to give place to the devil, (Eph.4:27) but this is exactly what we're doing when we allow strife to run freely in our homes.

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Our adversary knows this truth. Strife separates and divides! Therefore, it's to his advantage to create situations causing us to bite and devour *each other*, causing us to divide and split up our very own households.

Sadly, some marriages have endured ongoing strife and contention for years and even passed it on to their children and grandchildren while others have divorced. Both have brought a deeper divide and our adversary's victory into their lives. Generally speaking, statistics show that people are no happier *after* a divorce than they had been in the marriage. Instead, a whole new can of worms is opened like, financial strains, relationship issues and struggles with the children, not to mention guilt, loneliness, and a new, but different version of *unhappiness*. It was not new levels of *happiness* that were attained but, new and *additional* sources of *pain*.

Today, let's search our hearts and ask the Holy Spirit to purge it so that we stop the cycle of strife. Let's recognize the enemies' tactics and be ready to open our mouths with wisdom, and on our tongue be the law of kindness instead of spewing forth words of contention, criticism, and strife. Let's fight *for* our marriages and stop allowing the enemy to cause us to fight against each other to divide them. When all is said and done, and the dust settles, let your house *and* your marriage still be standing strong!

*Set a guard over mouth O Lord and keep watch over the door  
of my lips.*

Psalms 141:3