

## How should a Christian couple argue?

Since marriage is an intimate relationship between two devout sinners, it is inevitable that Christians will have disagreements and actually argue during this life.

1. What should be the goal of the argument?

Proverbs **17:9; 31:11-12; 16:32**; 11:14; 15:1      Matthew **5:25-26**  
Romans 15:2      1 John **4:11**

Regardless of the argument and the purpose of the argument it is important that the disagreement remain between the couple as much as possible. This means that neither party denigrates or belittles the other before other people. The purpose is to solve the problem at hand and be an encourager of the other party. As necessary, especially before the problem becomes divisive, seek Godly counsel to pursue a path of restoration and reconciliation. Ultimately the goal is to continually demonstrate a love for one another.

2. What are some responsibilities regarding the argument?

Proverbs **25:2; 18:17**      Matthew **5:23-24**  
James **1:19-20**      Proverbs 16:32  
Ephesians **5:22-24**      Ephesians **5:25-26**  
Ephesians **5:28-33**

Since the goal of the argument is to solve a particular problem, it is important to search out the details of the problem. This means that attacking one another accomplishes nothing. One of the responsibilities of both parties is to come to some sort of agreement on what to do. The plan may entail obtaining wise counsel from another to help you come to a proper solution. It is common for disagreements to become arguments to become heated attacks. Therefore it is necessary to keep your anger emotions in check and listen for the purpose of understanding the other side of the issue. One of the most challenging responsibilities of an argument between husband and wife is keeping the God given roles and responsibilities in check during the argument. The scriptures lays the responsibility for the outcome of the decision on the husband. The wife is to submit to her husband's God given role of leadership and in a sense leave the final decision to him. At the same time, the husband's job is to exercise Christlike love toward his wife and provide for her needs above his own and provide adequate protection for her. This may mean that he relinquish his intents and desires in order to benefit his wife before benefiting himself.

3. What things should be avoided?

Proverbs **18:13, 19, 21; 12:15**; 14:12; **20:14**      Proverbs **30:32-33**

It is important to avoid coming to a decision too quickly so as not to adequately investigate to understand the problem nor to understand the realm of possible solutions. It is further important to avoid offending the other person. This means avoiding saying things that is known to cause heartache and the feeling of being attacked. Just because we have a solution in mind, does not mean that that particular solution is the right one. Your spouse's solution might actually be better or

perhaps your pastor's or parent's solution might be better yet. Be very careful about embellishing the effect of the problem and the problems caused by the solution in order for your solution to be seen as the proper one. Sometimes when you take too strong of a stand for your position, the best thing you can do is to shut your mouth and if necessary put your hand (or both hands) over your mouth so that you do not say anything you will regret saying.

4. What are some helpful principles?

Ephesians **4:26-27**

1 Corinthians **6:6-8**

1 Corinthians **13:4-8**

Romans **15:2-3**

Proverbs 1:29-31; **11:14**

When arguing, it is important to resolve the conflict as quickly as possible. Sleeping on an argument can result in the sense of needing to hold stronger to your position rather than solve the actual problem. Where possible, seek to please the other just as Christ sought to please not Himself, but us. For the sake of the relationship, it is sometimes better to accept being wronged rather than fight to the death to protect your point of view. In other words, fight your battles wisely and do not fight battles that do not need to be fought. It is acceptable to pursue after external counsel in order to get proper insight. Keep the focus on the nature of love, not the “feeling” of being in love, but the commitment to loving regardless of the cost.