



COME ONE

COME ALL

**FAMILY
CIRCUS**

-A SERMON SERIES ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY-



5-25

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Bill
and
JEFF
KEANE

**“Getting to eat all that cake would
almost make it worth
gettin’ married.”**



10-15

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JEFF
and
BILL
KEANE

“...It’s their anniversary.”

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



7-7

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To Lisa
with love
Bil Keane

Bil Keane

"If Mommy hadn't married Daddy, we'd be
in some other family."

Setting the Stage

Our focus this morning is
discovering and examining
the Biblical paradigms
of marriage and family.

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,
that by testing you may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and acceptable and perfect.



Ephesians 5:15-33

The foundation and the substance
of marriage...

The foundation and the substance of marriage...

...the foundation is a mutual submission to one another. (v.21)

...the substance is a love embedded with respect
and a respect embedded with love. (v.22-33)

Be careful how you live....discover the heart and the will of God...

...be filled with the Spirit

addressing
one
another
in psalms
and hymns
and
spiritual
songs

singing
and making
melody to
the Lord
with your
heart

giving thanks
always and
for everything
to God the
Father in the
name of our
Lord Jesus
Christ

submitting
to one
another
out of
reverence
for Christ

Be careful how you live....discover the heart and the will of God...

...be filled with the Spirit

**submitting to one another
out of reverence for Christ**



Be careful how you live....discover the heart and the will of God...

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**submitting to one another
out of reverence for Christ**

**Husbands
and
Wives**

Ephesians 5:22-33

**Parents
and
Children**

Ephesians 6:1-4

**Employers
and
Employees**

Ephesians 6:5-9

HER ROLE

HELPER



LOVER

His response to her role: PRAISE

HER NEEDS

HIS NEEDS

HIS ROLE

SERVANT



LEADER

Her response to his role: RESPECT

Companionship

Companionship

Support

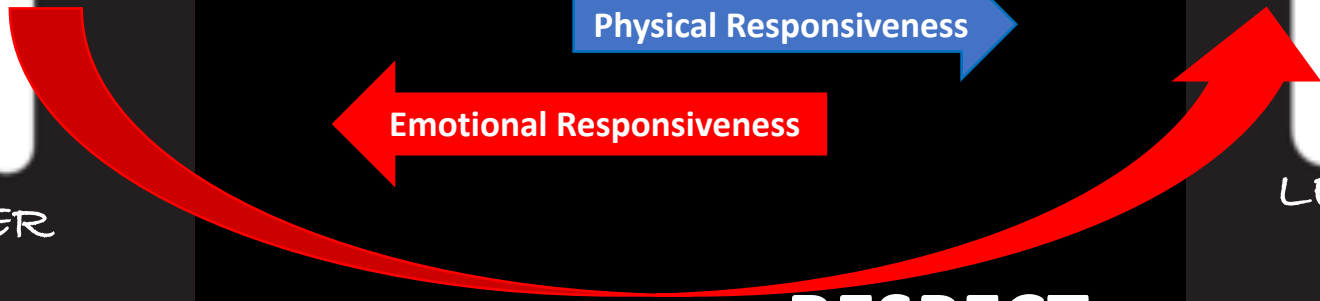
Security

Admiration

Significance

Physical Responsiveness

Emotional Responsiveness





Here's the deal.....

Here's the deal.....

Unfulfilled roles....

Unmet needs....

Inadequate responses....

=



Here's the deal.....

Unfulfilled roles....

Unmet needs....

Inadequate responses....

=

Conflict



Here's the deal.....

So....

So....

**...resolving conflict has become a challenge
for every human being,
in every relationship,
*and especially in this thing called marriage.***



Here's the deal.....

So....

Here's the deal.....

So....

...the best way to deal with conflict...

Here's the deal.....

So....

**...the best way to deal with conflict
is to not have it.**

Here's the deal.....

So....

**...the best way to deal with conflict
is to not have it.**

***To not have conflict, you either have to be
perfectly mature or you have to fake it.***



Here's the deal.....

So....

Here's the deal.....

So....

...what's the solution?

So....

...what's the solution?

Philippians 1:9-11

So this is my prayer, that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but that you will love well. Learn to love appropriately.

You need to use your head and test your feelings so your love is sincere and intelligent, not sentimental gush. Live a lover's life, circumspect and exemplary, a life that Jesus will be proud of: bountiful in fruits from the soul, making Jesus Christ attractive to all, getting everyone involved in the glory and the praise of God. (The Message)



Here's the deal.....

So....



Here's the deal.....

So....

**...what unhealthy and inadequate substitutes
for real love did you learn growing up?**

So....

...what unhealthy and inadequate substitutes for real love did you learn growing up?

- *Pleaser*
- *Avoider*
- *Vacillator*
- *Controller / Victim*

So....

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Here's the deal.....

So....

Here's the deal.....

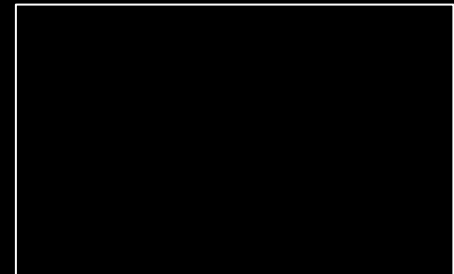
So....

...since we all have conflict in our relationships,
how can we resolve them in a more mature
fashion rather than habitually repeating
'the broken dance'
that we do with each other that unfortunately
damages and destroys
our relationships?

Conflict Resolution



Conflict Resolution



Conflict Resolution

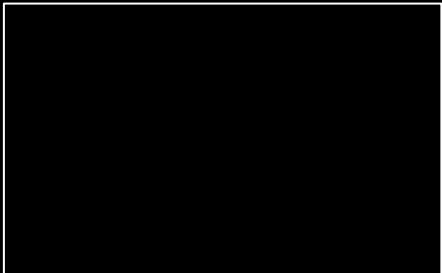


Colossians 1:28-29

28 We proclaim Him, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

29 For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.

Conflict Resolution



Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Growth
Maturity



Conflict Resolution

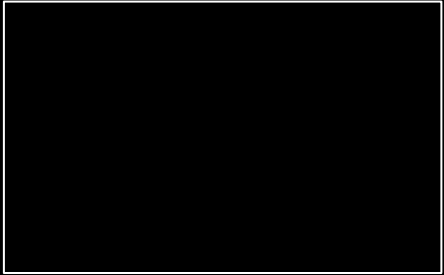
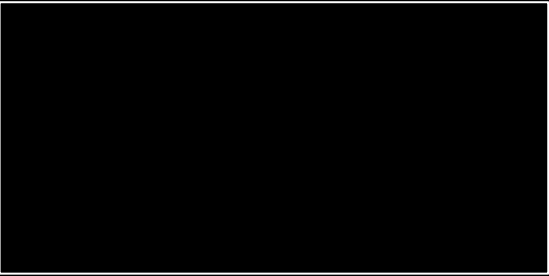
Conflict



Hurt Feelings

Growth

Maturity



Conflict Resolution

Conflict



Hurt Feelings



Anger



Conflict Resolution

Conflict



Hurt Feelings



Anger

Growth

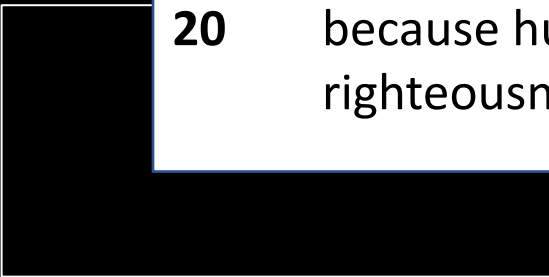
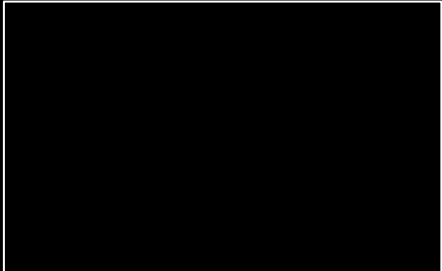


James 1:19-20

19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this:

Everyone should be quick to listen,
slow to speak and slow to become angry,

20 because human anger does not produce the
righteousness that God desires.



Conflict Resolution

Conflict



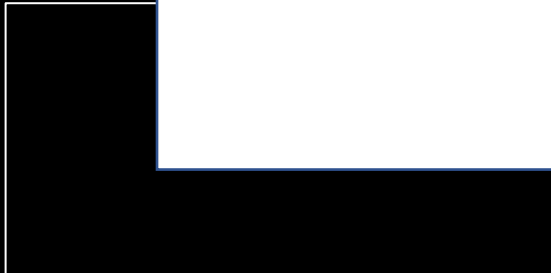
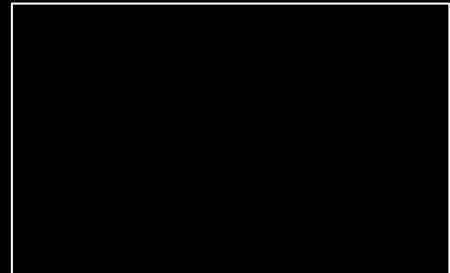
Hurt Feelings



Anger

Growth

4 primary feelings that we quickly identify as anger (which is actually a secondary emotion):



Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Hurt Feelings

Growth

Anger

4 primary feelings that we quickly identify as anger (which is actually a secondary emotion):

1. We feel powerless
2. We feel dependent
3. We feel unimportant
4. We feel exposed

Conflict Resolution

Conflict



Hurt Feelings



Anger



Conflict Resolution

Conflict



Hurt Feelings



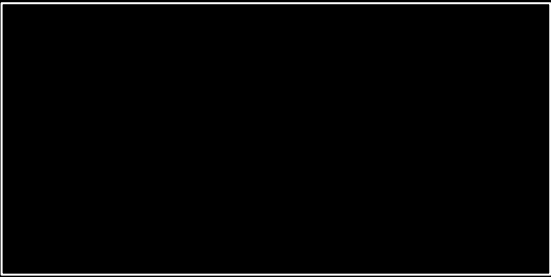
Anger



Growth
—
Maturity



Two choices



Conflict Resolution

Conflict



Hurt Feelings



Anger

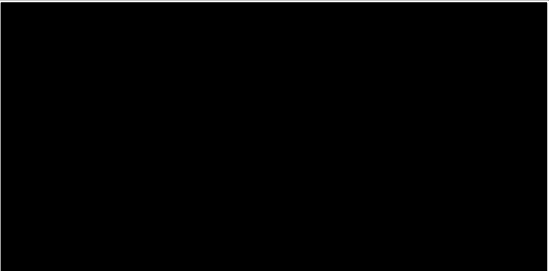


Two choices



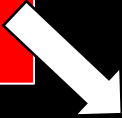
Flee
withdraw; let the problem fester

Growth
Maturity



Conflict Resolution

Conflict



Hurt Feelings



Anger



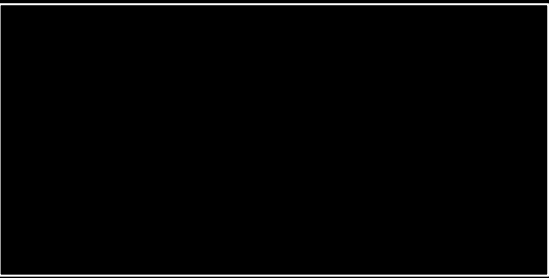
Two choices



Flee
withdraw; let the
problem fester
Escalates isolation

Growth

Maturity



Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Hurt Feelings

Growth
Maturity

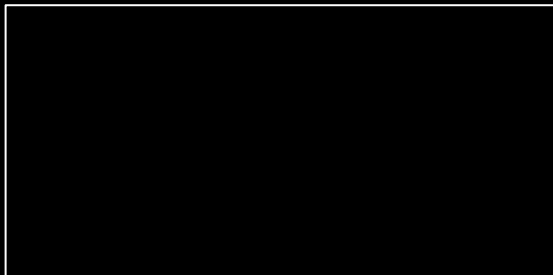
Anger

Two choices

Choose to face
the conflict

Flee

withdraw; let the
problem fester
Escalates isolation



Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Hurt Feelings

Growth
Maturity

Anger

Two choices

Two choices

Choose to face
the conflict

Flee

withdraw; let the
problem fester
Escalates isolation



Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Hurt Feelings

Growth
Maturity

Anger

Two choices

Two choices

Fight

demand; put down;
denigrate in order to win

Choose to face
the conflict

Flee

withdraw; let the
problem fester
Escalates isolation

Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Hurt Feelings

Growth
Maturity

Anger

Two choices

Two choices

Fight

demand; put down;
denigrate in order to win
Escalates conflict

Choose to face
the conflict

Flee

withdraw; let the
problem fester
Escalates isolation

Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Hurt Feelings

Growth

Anger

Galatians 5:15

But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

choices

Fight

demand; put down;
denigrate in order to win

Escalates conflict

Choose to face
the conflict

Flee

withdraw; let the
problem fester

Escalates isolation

Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Hurt Feelings

Growth
Maturity

Anger

Two choices

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Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Hurt Feelings

Anger

Growth
Maturity

Invitation to dialogue:

Two choices

Two choices

Fight

demand; put down;
denigrate in order to win
Escalates conflict

Choose to face
the conflict

Flee

withdraw; let the
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Escalates isolation

Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Hurt Feelings

Anger

Growth
Maturity

Invitation to dialogue:
"Let's talk."

Two choices

Two choices

Fight

demand; put down;
denigrate in order to win
Escalates conflict

Choose to face
the conflict

Flee

withdraw; let the
problem fester
Escalates isolation

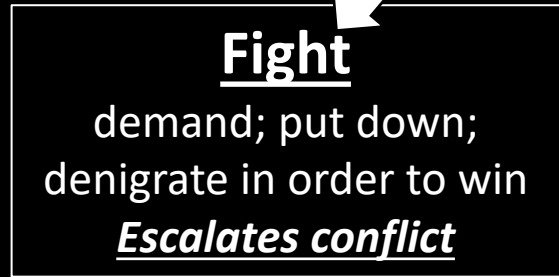
Ephesians 4:15-16

Speaking the **truth in love**, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

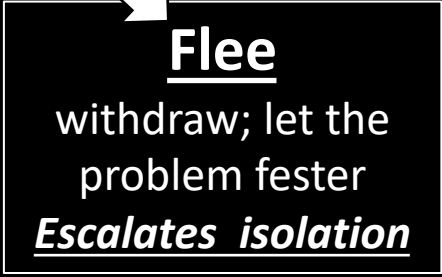
Feelings

Anger

Invitation to dialogue:
"Let's talk."



Choose to face
the conflict



Cor

The Meaning of Marriage by Timothy Keller

The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.

This is the only kind of relationship that will really transform us.

Love without truth is sentimentality; it supports and affirms us but keeps us in denial about our flaws.

Truth without love is harshness; it give us information but in such a way that we can not really hear it.

God's saving love in Christ, however, is marked by both.

Invitation to dialogue:
"Let's talk."

Two choices

Fight

demand; put down;
denigrate in order to win
Escalates conflict

the conflict

withdraw; let the
problem fester
Escalates isolation

Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Hurt Feelings

Anger

Growth
Maturity

Invitation to dialogue:
"Let's talk."

Two choices

Two choices

Fight

demand; put down;
denigrate in order to win
Escalates conflict

Choose to face
the conflict

Flee

withdraw; let the
problem fester
Escalates isolation

Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Hurt Feelings

Anger

Growth
Maturity

Understand, forgive, compromise

Invitation to dialogue:
"Let's talk."

Two choices

Two choices

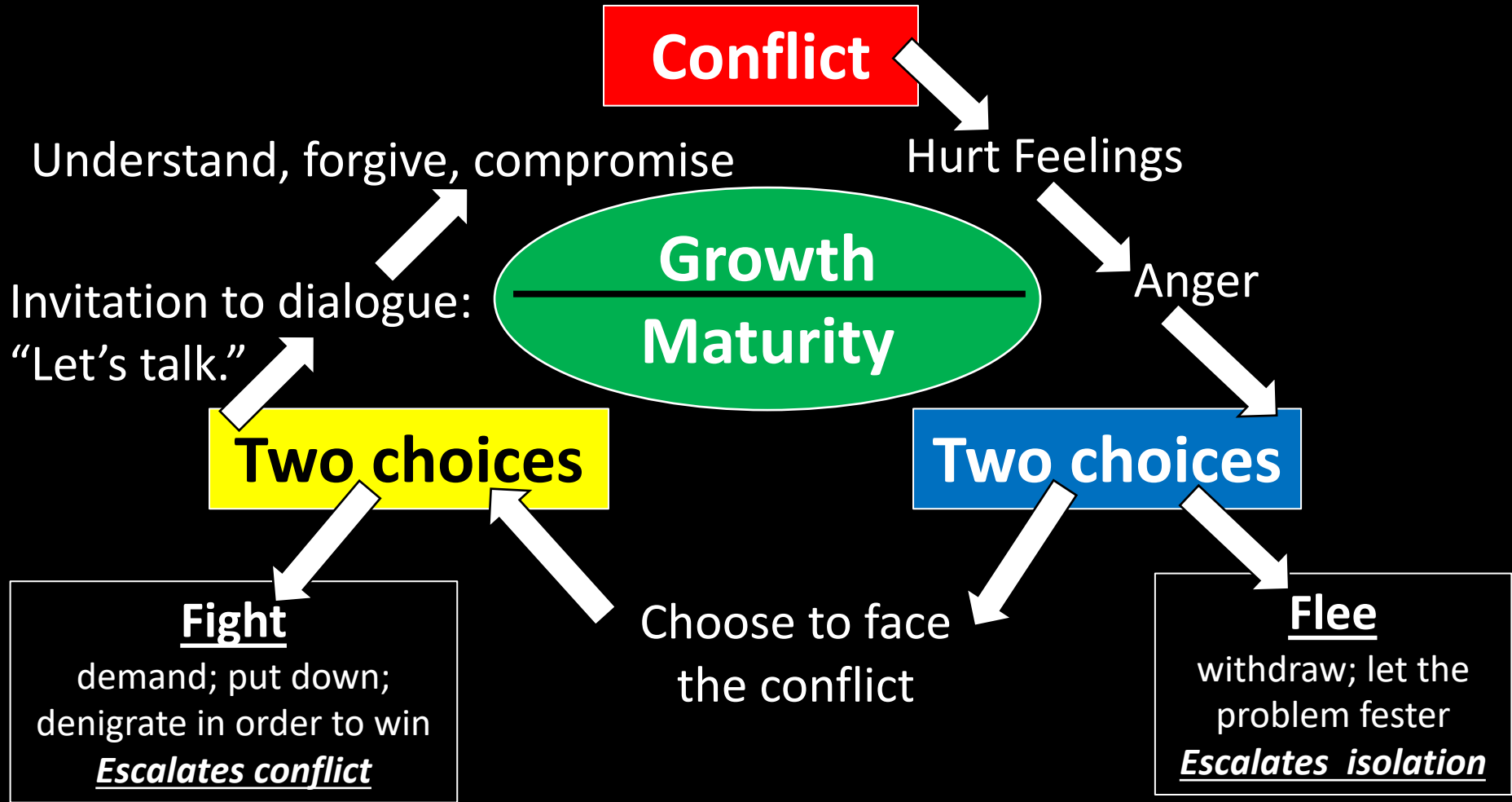
Fight

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denigrate in order to win
Escalates conflict

Choose to face
the conflict

Flee

withdraw; let the
problem fester
Escalates isolation



Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Understand, forgive, compromise

Hurt Feelings

Growth

Anger

I Peter 3:7

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Fight

demand; put down;
denigrate in order to win
Escalates conflict

Choose to face
the conflict

Flee

withdraw; let the
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Escalates isolation

Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Understand, forgive, compromise

Hurt Feelings

Growth
Maturity

Anger

Invitation to dialogue:
"Let's talk."

Two choices

Two choices

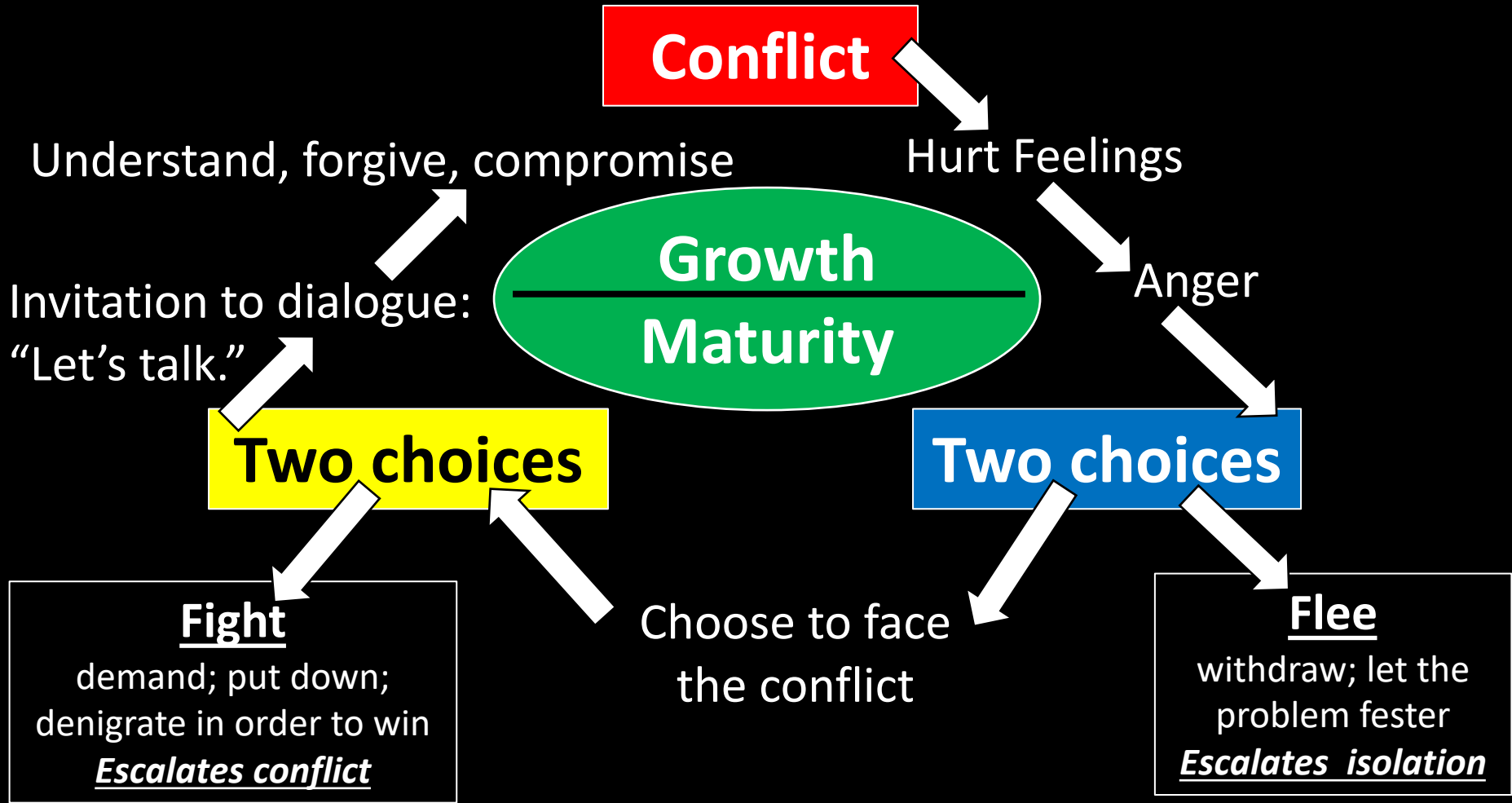
Fight

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Choose to face
the conflict

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Escalates isolation



Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Hurt Feelings

Anger

Growth
Maturity

Understand, forgive, compromise

Invitation to dialogue:
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Two choices

Two choices

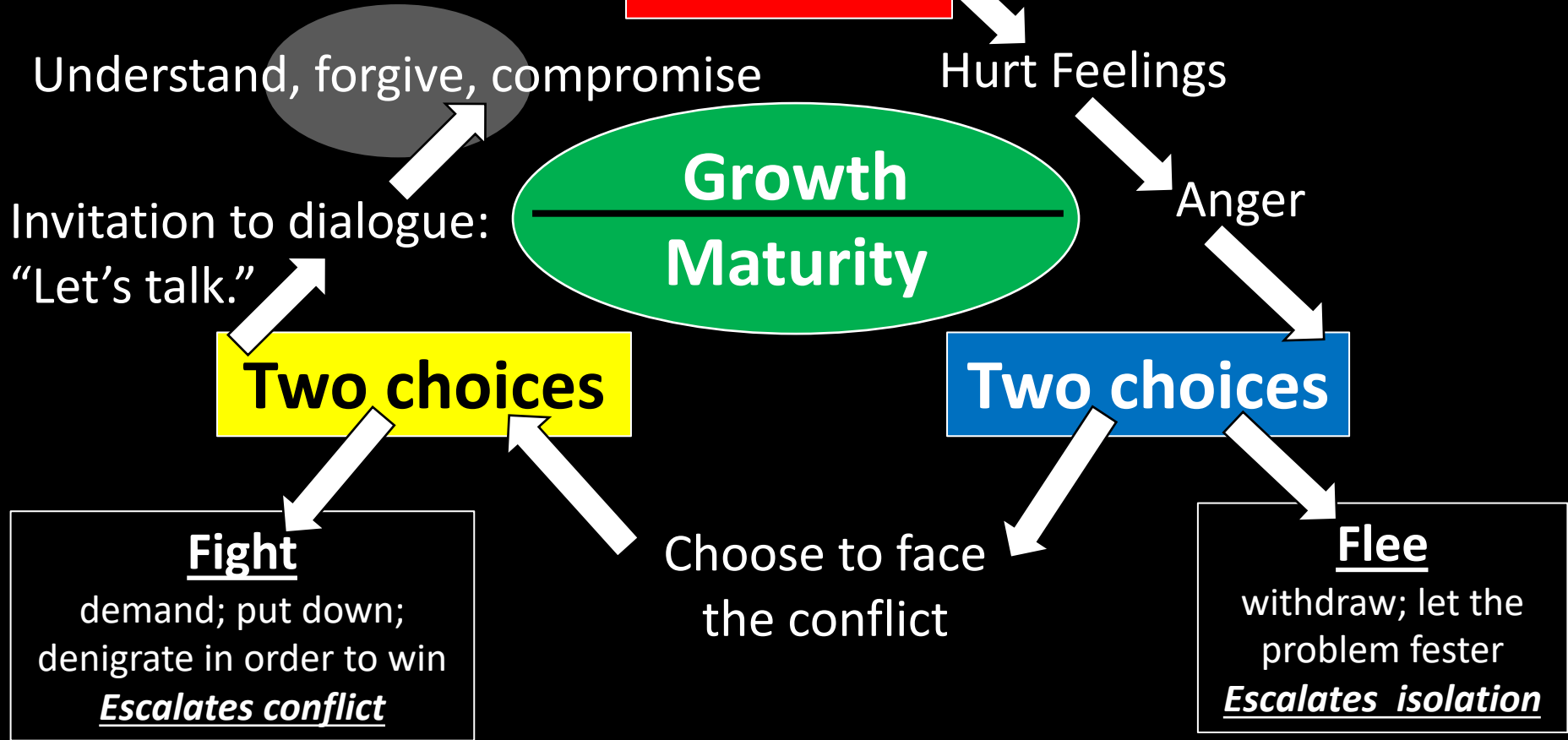
Fight

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Escalates conflict

Choose to face
the conflict

Flee

withdraw; let the
problem fester
Escalates isolation



Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Understand, forgive, compromise

Hurt Feelings

Growth

Anger

Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas

One of marriage's primary purposes is to teach us how to forgive.

choices

Fight

demand; put down;
denigrate in order to win
Escalates conflict

Choose to face
the conflict

Flee

withdraw; let the
problem fester
Escalates isolation

In
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Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Hurt Feelings

Anger

Growth
Maturity

Understand, forgive, compromise

Invitation to dialogue:
"Let's talk."

Two choices

Two choices

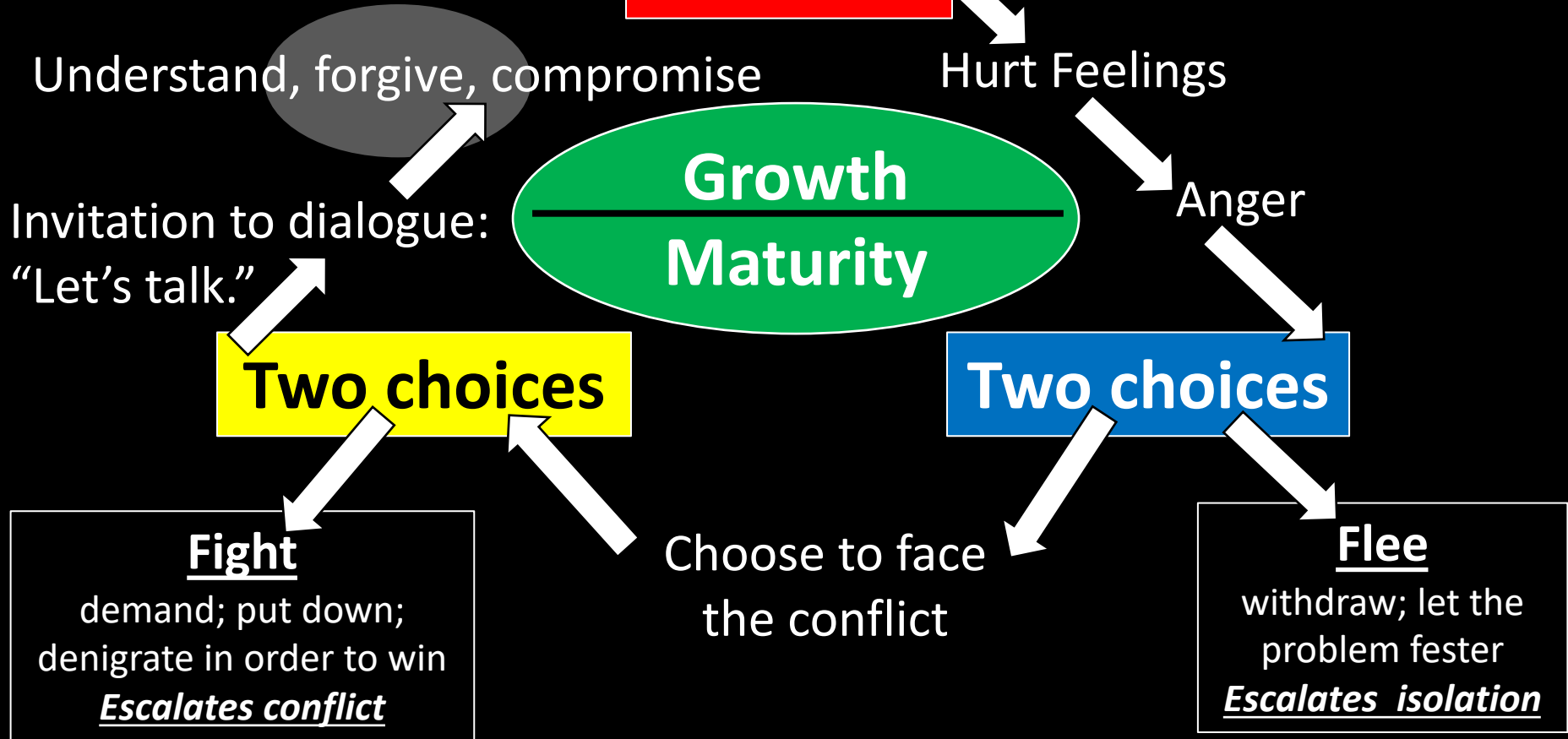
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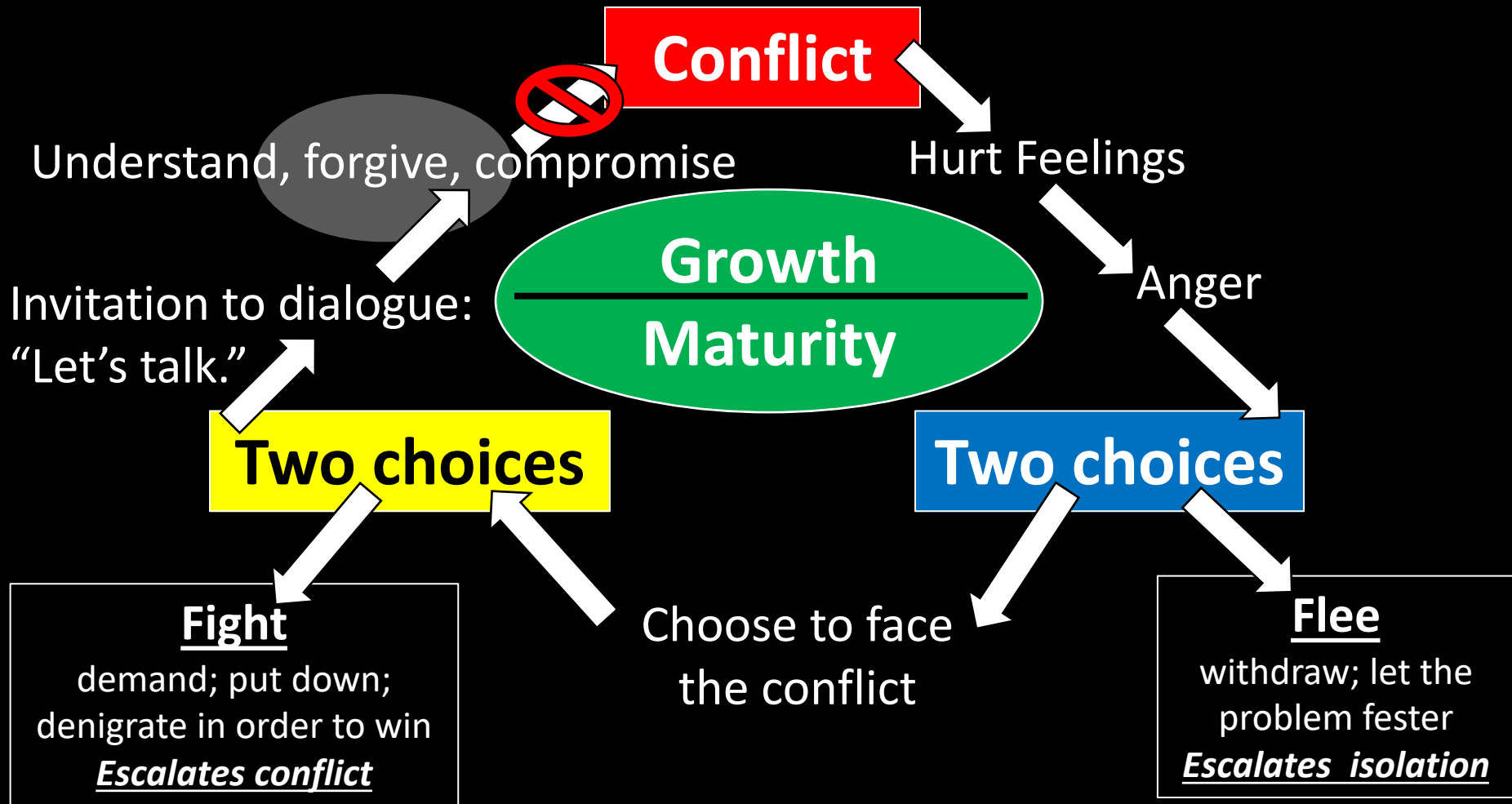
Choose to face
the conflict

Flee

withdraw; let the
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Escalates isolation



Conflict Resolution



Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Hurt Feelings

Anger

Growth
Maturity

Understand, forgive, compromise

Invitation to dialogue:
"Let's talk."

Two choices

Two choices

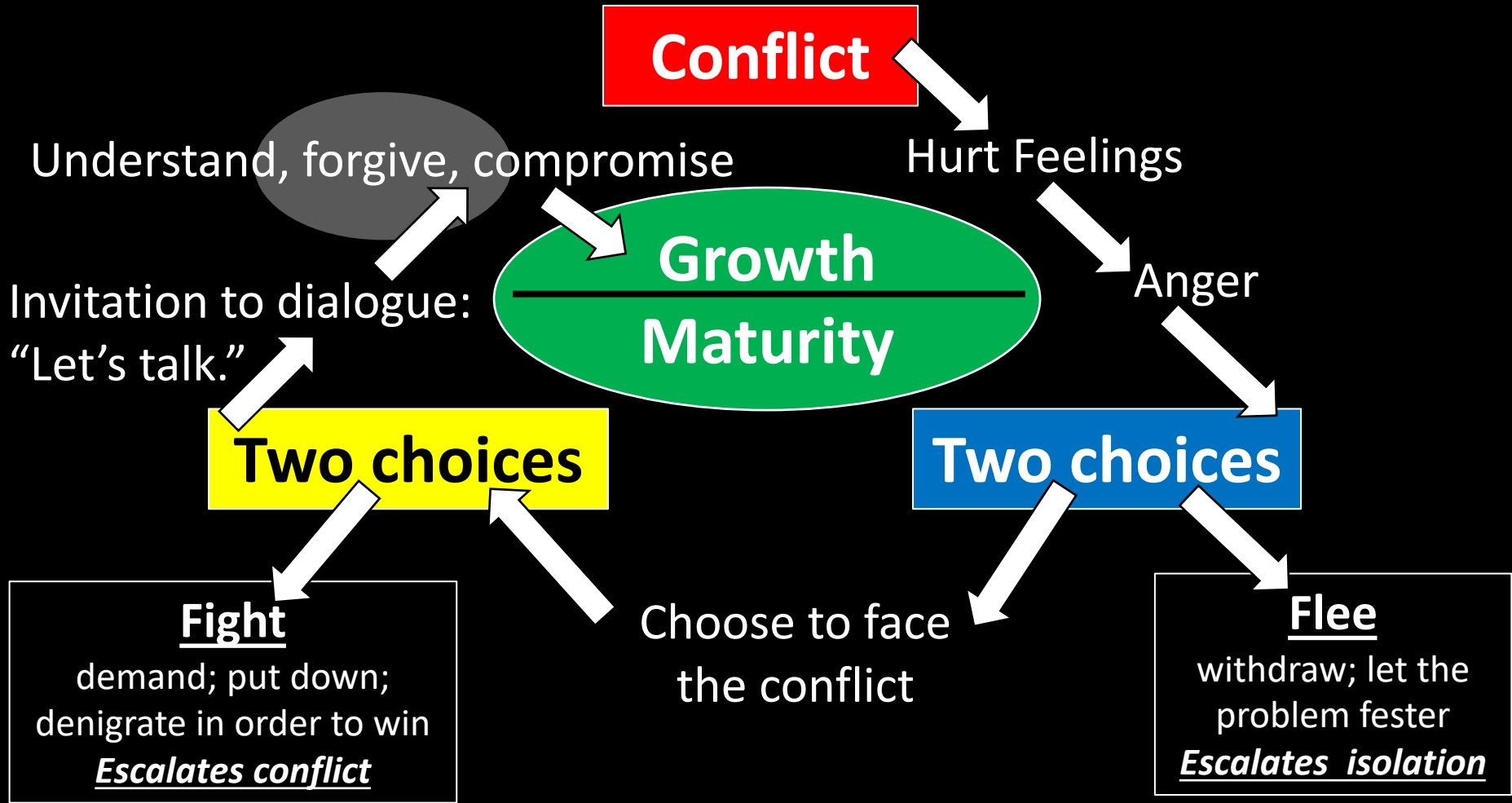
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the conflict

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withdraw; let the
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Escalates isolation



Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Hurt Feelings

Growth
Maturity

Anger

Understand, forgive, compromise

Invitation to dialogue:
"Let's talk."

Two

The state of marriage is one that requires more virtue and constancy than any other; it is a perpetual exercise of mortification.

St. Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva

Fight

demand; put down
denigrate in order to win

Escalates conflict

Flee

draw; let the
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Escalates isolation

Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Hurt Feelings

Understand, forgive, compromise

Growth
Maturity

Anger

Invitation to dialogue:
"Let's talk."

Two choices

Two choices

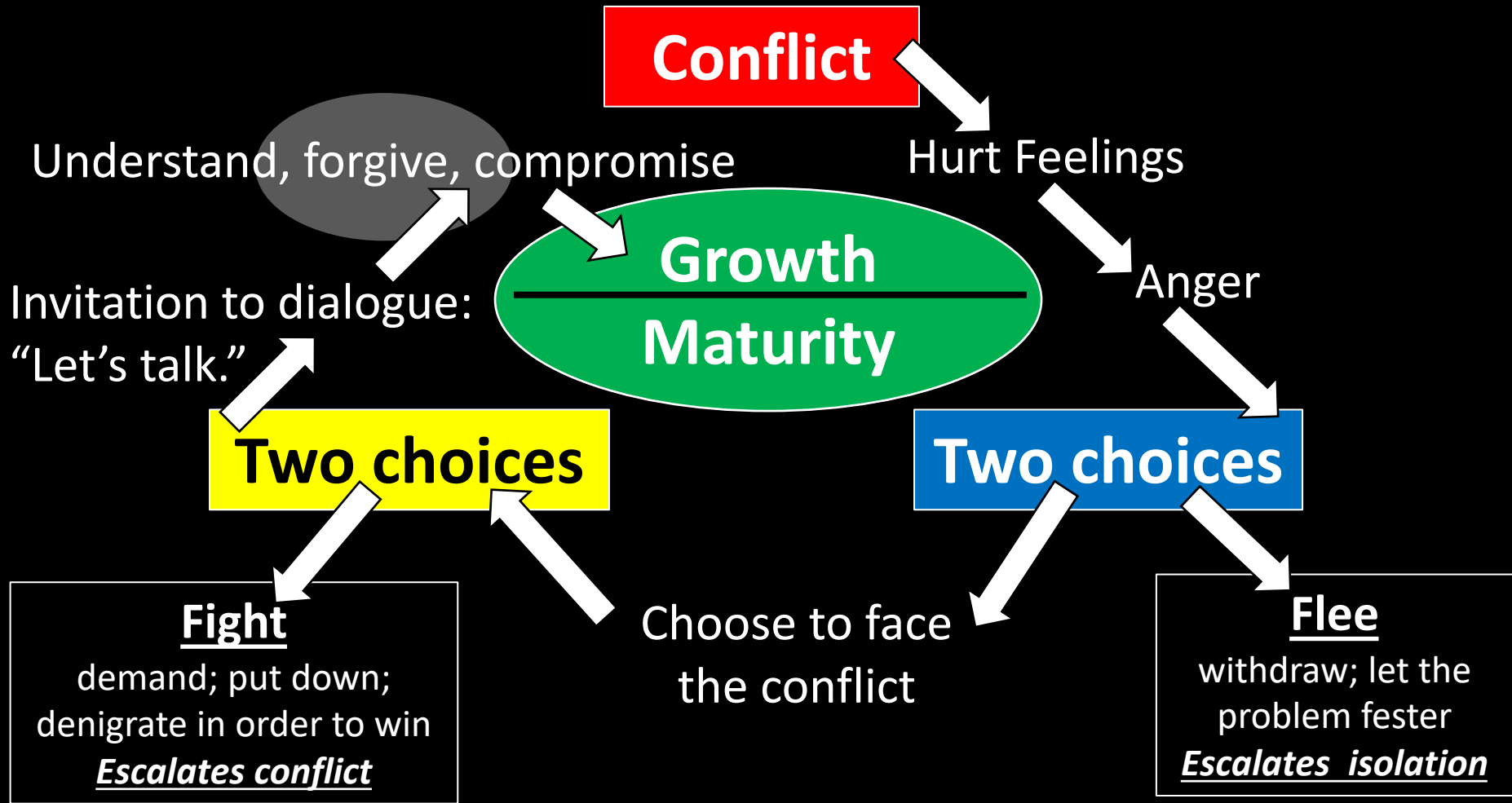
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Escalates isolation



Conflict Resolution

Conflict

Hurt Feelings

Anger

Hope

Understand, forgive, compromise

Invitation to dialogue:
"Let's talk."

Two choices

Two choices

Fight

demand; put down;
denigrate in order to win
Escalates conflict

Choose to face
the conflict

Flee

withdraw; let the
problem fester
Escalates isolation



So.....therefore.....what now?

Having the commitment and the skills to resolve conflict is a profoundly important dimension of any and every relationship.

There are two unhealthy tendencies we often and even habitually choose that escalate either isolation or tension.

What is your tendency? ***Flight*** or ***Fight***

Are you willing to work on developing a better and more productive 'dance' in your marriage?