



John and Bev Cooper

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The headline read something like this: “Man gets hit by train twice in same month.” Definite clickbait, but I couldn’t resist. I read on.

Apparently, this guy got too close to the edge of the platform and got his arm mangled by a train coming into the station. Later in the same month, he did almost the exact same thing again. Crushed his arm. Baffled his friends.

What kind of an idiot does that? Bad enough to get hit by a train once. But wouldn’t the pain of that keep you from getting too close to the edge again?

Judgmental headline reading comes easy to me. This story provided low-hanging fruit. Unfortunately, I read it in a span of days where I’d created misery in my home by saying something to my wife that always led to conflict.

The specifics don’t matter now. It’s the pattern that stands out: Over and over and over again. Same result.

Then, annoyingly, God’s Spirit used mangled-platform guy to put me in a corner.

“What kind of an idiot repeatedly steps across the edge to be hit by a train, you ask? Who doesn’t learn from pain when they experience it? Those are great questions—*for you!*”

How often do I get hit by the same train in my own house? Same sloppy words. Same defensive posture. Same behavior that creates the same negative result.

I had to think: Instead of using my energy to judge the dude who kept running into trains, maybe ask God to help me start avoiding some of my own.

But God, can’t I at least ask, who gets hit twice by a **REAL** train?

Never mind. Back to my own trains.

The Good Stuff: Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly (Proverbs 26:11).



- What’s one marital “train” you’d love to avoid in the future?
- What are the common elements to the pattern? (Feel free to gently ask your spouse for their ideas, especially if you’re feeling clueless.)
- What foolish behavior will you purposefully, prayerfully avoid in the future?

Get your FREE copy (PDF) of Fighting Fair—Your guide to resolving marital conflict like a champ! On FamilyLife's website or request a copy from us at:

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It has begun! The **NEW** *Weekend to Remember* marriage events have opened for the spring season.

We kicked things off in Branson, Missouri the last weekend in March and have scheduled six more through June. **Even though most are sold out**, there is still some room at the June events.

Bev and I couldn't wait to read the feedback from the couples attending. With all that families have been through with COVID, we wanted to read about the impact.

This conference 100% changed our marriage. We came into the conference in a really dark place and needed the Holy Spirit to speak to and convict both of us on the damaging things we were doing in our marriage. He absolutely did, and both of us are excited to get home and apply what we learned and continue on our journey towards oneness! An absolutely life changing experience that will benefit me, my wife, our marriage, our kids, and our community. -Guest at Branson

And we want to share some insider information. Dennis and Barbara Rainey will be giving their last Weekend to Remember speaking engagement at the Phoenix event on June 4th. This is the only event this spring where it will not be the **NEW** *Weekend to Remember* content, but our **CLASSIC**. All the events after that will be in the new format. If you would like to attend to hear the Rainey's one last time, just contact us...but don't wait until the last minute!

California or Bust!

Yes, we're almost there, folks! We spent 9 days exploring cities from Shingle Springs to Vacaville, trying to find an area to place our "tent pegs". We visited a couple of churches and looked at many neighborhoods. At the end of the day, it appears that the Sacramento area will be our first choice. If we can't find a house that we can afford, we will look in the Vacaville area.



One thing we realize now is how blessed we have been to live here in Little Rock, Arkansas. The housing costs are very high in California. We were also surprised to find many hidden costs, meaning we need to raise some additional support. **We are so thankful to have you praying for us during this journey.** What seems like a delay (aren't we all feeling this way?), will only work out for our good and God's glory. Aren't you glad that we serve the One who owns a cattle on a thousand hills? And didn't He say the silver and gold belong to Him? He is faithful and we know He will help us with this final push to raise the rest of our support. Know that your prayers are making a difference. We are getting more excited to reach our destination!

In Christ,
John + Bev