

**Agathos Ministries**  
 Hosted at the Guardian Academy  
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**Divorce**

This Week: Some Basic Principles      Next Week: Unpacking Scripture

Basic Agathos Divorce Presumption: DiAaBT: \_\_\_\_\_

Divorce is Always a Bad Thing

If every marriage was an intimate relationship, a deeply satisfying partnership, and a refuge, we would not have to discuss divorce. No one would be able to imagine why anyone would want one.

Best Time to Take Action to Avoid Divorce: BtWD: \_\_\_\_\_

Before the Wedding Day

Second Best Time to Take Action to Avoid Divorce: N: \_\_\_\_\_

Now

If you're lucky, the Best and Second Best are the same for you!

Best Way to Avoid Divorce: AGM: \_\_\_\_\_

A Great Marriage

Problem: AGMiaTE: \_\_\_\_\_

A Great Marriage is a Team Effort

It takes two to build a Great Marriage. It only takes one to destroy it.

Second Best Way to Avoid Divorce: BaGS: \_\_\_\_\_

Be a Great Spouse

Problem: WD“BaGS”M?: \_\_\_\_\_

What Does “Be a Great Spouse” Mean?

Problem: YSMJTA: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Spouse May Just Take Advantage.

**Basic Agathos Divorce Procedure**

In Case of Danger:

PYC, Y, YF: \_\_\_\_\_

Protect Your Children, Yourself, Your Finances

Without Danger:

YDYP: \_\_\_\_\_

You Do Your Part.

SiYSR: \_\_\_\_\_

See if Your Spouse Responds.

PWYAaaS: \_\_\_\_\_

Prove Who You Are as a Spouse.

If Your Spouse was Reacting to...

then Your Spouse Should Behave Differently In...

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Behavior

\_\_\_\_\_  
Days or Weeks

\_\_\_\_\_  
Household Environment

\_\_\_\_\_  
Weeks or Months

\_\_\_\_\_  
Their Baggage or Poor Character

\_\_\_\_\_  
Months, Years or Never

“Your Part” BIBLICALLY: Both: Self-Control, Relationship with God, Fruit of the Spirit

Husbands: Team Leadership (for the best interests of the Team), Love, Be Respectable, Be Understanding, Be Physically Available

Wives: Submit to Leader, Be Lovable, Respect, Be Understandable, Be Physically Available.

STAGE 1: Both: Survival Responsibilities

Husband: Provide, Protect

Wife: Homemaker, Children

STAGE II: Both: Love, Respect, Attention, Cooperation, Play, Love Languages, Temperaments, Sensory Modalities, Temporal Modalities, Communication, Problem Solving,

Husbands: Commitment, Financial Support, Affectionate, Romantic, Conversationalist, Open, Honest

Wives: Physically Fulfilling, Attractive Partner, Admiring, Recreational Companionship, Domestic Support

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF LOVE IN MARRIAGE

In 866 AD Pope Nicholas I declared, "If the consent be lacking in a marriage, all other celebrations, even should the union be consummated, are rendered void." No matter the arrangement of parents, if both the husband and wife did not consent to the marriage, then their marriage was annulled. Even in some parts of the world today, the idea that the woman has a say in who she marries would be considered absurd.

The troubadours in the 12th Century were evidently the first source of the idea that courtly or romantic love might lead to and be part of marriage. But it was the stuff of literature and plays, not part of societal reality for many, many centuries. It does not seem until the late 1800s that the idea that marriage should be more than an economic arrangement for survival, economic advantage,

Protestant Reformers disagreed with the Catholic Church on the issue of divorce. Protestant Reformers actually favored divorce under special circumstances. John Milton, a Puritan writer, said in *Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce* (1643) that people should be allowed to divorce without the church or government having a say. Milton thought marriage rested entirely on the full compatibility of the partners. Milton wrote that when mutual love was lacking, marriage was a sham and had to be dissolved.

Stephanie Coontz, *Marriage: A History*

In early modern Europe most people believed that love developed after marriage. Moralists of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries argued that if a husband and wife each had a good character, they would probably come to love each other. But they insisted that youths be guided by their families in choosing spouses who were worth learning to love. It was up to parents and other relatives to make sure that the woman had a dowry or the man had a good yearly income. Such capital, it was thought, would certainly help love flower.

About two centuries ago Western Europe and North America developed a whole set of new values about the way to organize marriage and sexuality, and many of these values are now spreading across the globe. In this Western model, people expect marriage to satisfy more of their psychological and social needs than ever before. Marriage is supposed to be free of the coercion, violence, and gender inequalities that were tolerated in the past. Individuals want marriage to meet most of their needs for intimacy and affection and all their needs for sex.

Never before in history had societies thought that such a set of high expectations about marriage was either realistic or desirable. Although many Europeans and Americans found tremendous joy in building their relationships around these values, the adoption of these unprecedented goals for marriage had unanticipated and revolutionary consequences that have since come to threaten the stability of the entire institution.

Warren Farrell, *Why Men Are the Way They Are* and *The Myth of Male Power*

For thousands of years, marriage were in Stage 1: Survival. After World War II, marital standards moved to Stage II: Fulfillment. In Stage 1, love meant a division of labor with a division of female and male interests. Husbands and wives may go months or years without even seeing one another, and when they did live in the same home, they may not sleep in the same bed. The role of the husband was primarily protector and provider. The role of the woman was child-bearer, child-rearer, and homemaker. Neither sex expected much from the other.

In Stage II, love means common interests, common values, relationship with one another, partnership, teamwork, equality of legitimate needs, and a desire for mutual fulfillment - to be more together than the spouses would have been apart.