

Agathos Ministries
Hosted at the Guardian Academy
2782-E Sweetwater Springs Blvd.
Spring Valley, CA 91977
(619) 582-8770

MARRIAGE 1 of 6: Foundations

Which do you choose?
“GW _____” vs. “MW _____”?
God's Way, Man's Way
“TWtW _____” vs. “TWtDNW _____”?
The Way that Works, The Way that Does NOT Work

Philosophical Question: If “God’s Way” Does NOT Work... What Does That Mean?

A. God’s Way is Wrong

B. Man got the Answer Wrong to the Question “What is God’s Way?”

Most of Christendom is pretty certain they know “God’s Way.” Consider the following:

Death by Ministry

Author: Mark Driscoll POSTED ON: 05.25.06

Part 1 - Some Statistics

The following statistics were presented by Pastor Darrin Patrick from research he has gathered from such organizations as [Barna](#) and [Focus on the Family](#).

Pastors

- 1500 pastors leave the ministry each month due to moral failure, spiritual burnout, or contention in their churches.
- 50% of pastors' marriages will end in divorce. (Scot: This is probably a misinterpretation)
- 80% of pastors and 84% of their spouses feel unqualified and discouraged in their role.
- 50% of pastors are so discouraged that they would leave the ministry if they could, but have no other way of making a living.
- 80% of seminary and Bible school graduates who enter the ministry will leave the ministry within the first 5 years.
- 70% of pastors constantly fight depression.
- Almost 40% polled admit to an extra-marital affair since beginning their ministry.
- 70% said the only time they spend studying the Word is when preparing sermons.

Pastors' Wives

- 80% of pastors' spouses feel their spouse is overworked.
- 80% of pastors' spouses wish their spouse would choose another profession.
- The majority of pastor's wives surveyed said that the most destructive event that has occurred in their marriage and family was the day they entered the ministry.

Many of us here and listening to the recording have prior education and experience with “God’s Way.” I ask you to loosen your grip on everything you know or think you know - and consider this. “If God’s Ways are always right - and if Clergy suffer as the statistics would indicate - and if we can assume the Clergy (whose careers depend upon it) do it better than most - and this is the result.... then maybe - just maybe - everything we know or think we know is wrong.

The World - even many Christians - especially those coming of age in the New Millenium - will see that “God’s Way” isn’t working - and they will throw out the whole Bible.

Principle 3: The Bible is the Undisputed Primary Source Material for Christianity.

We have no other Primary Source. At Agathos, we believe the Bible is the Word of God.

If we throw it out - we lose everything.

Principle 1: Reality is More Important Than Anything We Believe.

“God’s Way” IS ER _____.

Exactly Right

BUT what we’ve been TOLD is “God’s Way” may not be “God’s Way” at all! Since we believe that God’s Way IS the right way, and we believe the Bible is the Word of God - and even Clergy get the result the statistics indicate they get - then it tells us that the traditional interpretations may NOT be the right interpretations. “God’s Way” works. If it isn’t working - then that tells us that God’s Way is NOT what we thought it was - and we go back to the Bible to see where WE went wrong - because we KNOW that GOD got it right.

Bible Rules: For AP in AP at AT: _____

All People in All Places at All Times

Modern Rules: For AP in AP at AT: _____

PLUS Rules for UP in TP at TT: _____

All People in All Places at All Times PLUS Us People in This Place at This Time.

Modern Rules do NOT eliminate Bible Rules. Modern Rules ADD to and interpret the rules for modern day application based upon present day realities - but the Principles remain unchanged.

Example: Dowry and Income. When the objective of marriage is financial survival, then what she brings is money and goods to start the home, and what he brings is money to support the family. They each had to have their part before marriage. When the objective of marriage is teambuilding and joint fulfillment, what each bring to the relationship includes Relationship Skills.

The Principle: BttMWtMN: _____

Bring to the Marriage What the Marriage Needs

What you need to bring changes depending upon your JOINT Marriage Goals.

Most people do not give that much thought...

Another Principle: BtBtStB: _____

Be the Blessing THEN Seek the Blessing

I should be the best gift my wife could receive for a wedding present. For our first anniversary, I should be a better gift to my wife than I was at the wedding - and every anniversary after that, I should be a better and better gift.

90% Rule: _____

90% of Your Happiness or Misery will depend upon One Set of Skills and One Decision.

The Skill Set: _____ The Decision: _____

Relationship Skills, Who You Marry.

Martial Arts Metaphor: If 90% of your survival and the survival of your family depended upon your martial arts skill - how many people would earn Black Belts? And of those that did - if you knew 90% of your survival and your family’s survival depended upon your martial arts skill - would you do just enough to get your belt - or would you work to learn everything you could?

Earning a Black Belt in a Guardian Martial Art takes four to six years at about 100 hours of classes per year. On average, expect that a Black Belt represents about 500 hours of class time.

These six marriage sermons will total perhaps 4 hours. If you add the Divorce sermons, that’s about 6. If you attended the relationship course or get the CDs, that’s another 10. If you get all 75 hours of instruction and listen to all the lessons... compared to a 500 hour Black Belt... how are you doing? 75 hours of training - just hearing it all one time - is about equal to a Yellow Belt.

In martial arts, we have a process from Kohai - which is someone being mentored - to Sempai - which is a mentor. That takes about two years. At Sempai, you should be able to do things and explain them. After four to six years, you can earn your Black Belt and be a Sensei - which means “one who has walked a path and can show others the way.” You did it. You can teach what you did.

If you really love someone - do you want 90% of their happiness or misery to depend upon an untrained person? Do you want 90% of your own happiness or misery to depend upon an untrained person? If neither side is trained, the quality of the marriage is hit and miss - and in modern society - the odds are not good. Train. Practice. Do. Teach.

If you want affect Generations beyond you, you need to do it well so you’re a role model, and you need to explain what you’re doing so you’re a teacher, and the duplicate it down the Generations.