

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

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.

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DIVORCE: UNPACKING SCRIPTURE

Deutoromy 24:1. "When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and _____,"

he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts {it} in her hand and sends her out from his house,

Malachi 2:16. " " _____," says the Lord, the God of Israel."
For I Hate Divorce

Based Upon Old Testament Law: DiaPBT: _____
Divorce is a Permissable Bad Thing

The Old Testament Ideal: L,C,BOF: _____
Leave, Cleave, Be One Flesh.

Genesis 2:24: "Therefore shall a man _____ his father and his mother, and shall _____ unto his wife: and they shall _____,"
Leave, Cleave, Be One Flesh

Matthew 19:3-10. {Some} Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful {for a man} to divorce his wife for any reason at all?" And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created {them} from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'?" So they are no longer two, but one flesh.

_____." They *said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND {her} AWAY?" He *said to them, "Because of your _____ Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery." The disciples *said to Him, "If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry."

What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.; hardness of heart

What did the Disciples say? Did Jesus disagree with their statement? Look at what He said...

Matthew 19: 11-12. But He said to them, "Not all men {can} accept this statement, but {only} those to whom it has been given. "For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are {also} eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept {this,} let him accept {it.}"

1 Corinthians 7:10-17. To the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife. But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her. And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. Yet _____

but God has called us to peace. For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife? Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this manner let him walk. And so I direct in all the churches. if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such {cases,}

Based Upon New Testament Principle: DiSaBT: _____
Divorce is Still a Bad Thing

Jesus' statement in Matthew 9:11-12 which reads like a "loophole." We could get away with using that alone, since it's Jesus' own words, but you can't ignore the rest of Scripture.

Let's Look at a Few Key Verses

1 Corinthians 7:15. “But if the unbelieving leave, let him leave. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such [cases]: but God hath called us to peace.”

2 Corinthians 6:14. “Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers, for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion has light with darkness?”

Mark 10: 9, Matt 19:6 “What God has joined together let not man tear asunder.”

Some Key Concepts: “Unbelieving,” “Joined Together,” “Yoked,” “Leave,” “Tear Asunder.”

“Unbelieving” - Apistos. **1)** unfaithful, faithless, (not to be trusted, perfidious); **2)** incredible **a)** of things; **3)** unbelieving, incredulous **a)** without trust (in God).

“Joined Together” - Syzeugnymi. **1)** to fasten to one yoke, yoke together; **2)** to join together unite; **a)** of the marriage tie.

“Joined Together” includes LC&TBOF (Genesis 2:24): _____
Leaving, Cleaving, & To Become One Flesh

“Unequally Yoked” - Heterozyge. **1)** to come under an unequal or different yoke, to be unequally yoked. **a)** to have fellowship with one who is not an equal: 2Cor 6:14, where the apostle is forbidding Christians to have intercourse with idolaters

“Yoke” - Zygos. **1)** a yoke. **a)** a yoke that is put on draught cattle. **b)** metaph., used of any burden or bondage. **1)** as that of slavery. **2)** of troublesome laws imposed on one, esp. of the Mosaic law, hence the name is so transferred to the commands of Christ as to contrast them with the commands of the Pharisees which were a veritable 'yoke'; yet even Christ's commands must be submitted to, though easier to be kept. **2)** a balance, pair of scales

“Tear Asunder,” “Separate” - Chorizo. **1)** to separate, divide, part, put asunder, to separate one's self from, to depart. **a)** to leave a husband or wife. **1)** of divorce. **b)** to depart, go away

13 verses. 4 times it is clearly speaking of a physical leaving of one place for another place. In these three uses, it is clearly speaking of a relationship or harmony and clearly not geography

Romans 8:35. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

Romans 8:39. Nor height nor depth nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hebrews 7:26. For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens.

For the scholarly minded who want to check up on our interpretation, the Greek word Chorizo appears in the following verses: Matthew 19:6, Mark 10:6, Acts 1:4, Acts 18:1, Acts 18:2, Romans 8:35, Romans 8:39, 1 Corinthians 7:10, 1 Corinthians 7:11, 1 Corinthians 7:15, Philemon 1:15, Hebrews 7:26.

This is the word used in 1 Corinthians 7:15. “*If the unbelieving ‘chorizo,’ let him ‘chorizo.’*” Then the divorce is the legal recognition of the state of the relationship.

Then the question is “What Constitutes a Leaving?”

Easy to Determine: PLwItD: _____
Physically Leaving with Intent to Divorce

Not So Easy to Determine: VV: _____
Violate Vows

Hard to Determine: LtR: _____
Left the Relationship

Before asking that question about _____, ask the question about _____.
Your Spouse, You

You should not seek Divorce from a PoG: _____
Position of Guilt

Thus, the YDYP Rule: _____
You Do Your Part

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DIVORCE

Marriage and Divorce based upon Matthew 19: 3-10.

THE PLAN: L,C,BOF. _____

Leave, Cleave, Be One Flesh

THE REALITY & CONCESSION: HH, D _____

Hard Hearts, Divorce

L: TGS,LBS _____

Leave: Take Good Stuff, Leave Bad Stuff

C: HW,HW,OW _____

Cleave: His Way, Her Way, Our Way

BOF: JTbGP _____

Be One Flesh: Joined Together by God's Principles

OJT:DNTA: _____

Once Joined Together: Do Not Tear Asunder

If you V L,C,BOF,JT,DNTA: _____

Violate Leave, Cleave, Be One Flesh, Joined Together, Do NOT Tear Asunder

Then You Are G _____, **You Need to R** _____, **You Need to Ask for F** _____, **and You Need it Covered by G** _____.

Guilty. Repent. Forgiveness. Grace.

Agathos Position on Divorce: AaBT _____

Always a Bad Thing

Agathos Position on Leaving, Cleaving, Be One Flesh: B: _____

Bullseyes

Agathos Position on Tearing Asunder: AaBT: _____

Always a Bad Thing

Double Bind: A Marriage PTW _____

FOTMBAT: _____

Put Together Wrong, Fixing One Thing Might Break Another Thing

Problem: Violation at Leave ,Cleave ,Be One Flesh, Tear Asunder...

Modern Solution: D _____ **Traditional Solution: LWI** _____

Divorce, Live With It

Agathos Solution: ADP. _____

Agathos Divorce Procedure

1. YDYP. _____

You Do Your Part

2. CfR. _____

Check for Response

3. PWYAaaS. _____

Prove Who You Are as a Spouse

If After One to Two YEARS of YDYP and Your Spouse has not Responded, Then You Have Proved Who You Are as a Spouse and are not Divorcing from a Position of Guilt.

Divorce:TLRoRATA. _____

The Legal Recognition of a Relationship Already Torn Asunder

BUT You Are G _____, **You Need to R** _____, **You Need to Ask for F** _____, **and You Need it Covered by G** _____.

Guilty. Repent. Forgiveness. Grace.

BASIC TEST: If You Were Both Single, and God Gave Each of You AS a Blessing to Another...

FWWYbGB? _____

For Whom Would You Be God's Blessing?

Many People ask the Question: What do I want? This is basically: What Would Bless ME?

We Need to Ask: Of What Am I Worthy? This is: For Whom Would I be God's Blessing?

Worse: Some People NEVER Ask the Question. They only know they aren't happy.