

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.

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MARRIAGE 2 of 6: 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 _____ HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND _____ TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL _____'?"
"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not Man _____." 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 _____ it has not been this way."
Leave, Cleave, Be One Flesh, Tear Asunder, Hardness of Heart, The Beginning

Genesis 1:1. "In _____ God created the Heavens and Earth."
The Beginning

When something is from "the beginning" it tells you that it is a Design Principle. God is telling us how the system has been engineered for All People in All Places in All Times. This was supposed to be the Human Rule - not the Jewish Rule or the Christian Rule - the Human Rule.

Leave: TtG&U, LtB&U: _____
Take the Good and Useful. Leave the Bad and Useless.

Consider: Personal Stuff. Clothes. Furniture. Junk. Garbage.
Leave includes two skills:

- L: _____ - You need to take useful skills and insights.
Learn
- F: _____ - You need to Forgive to leave the bad stuff.
Forgive

Leave: FoO, APR: _____
Family of Origin, All Prior Relationships

All Prior Relationships include All Romantic Relationships, Friendships, Jobs, and Lifestyles.

Principle: Refiner's Fire - RDoBS, KtGS: _____
Get Rid of Bad Stuff, Keep the Good Stuff

Malachi 3:3 - "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."

Proverbs 25:4 - "Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the smith."

How To Leave - Take the Good Stuff:

1. Think About What Was _____.
Good
2. Understand _____.
Principles
3. Consider _____.
Unintended Consequences

The Principle: BttMWtMN: _____
Bring to the Marriage What the Marriage Needs

In order to "Bring to the Marriage What the Marriage Needs" you need to know WtMN:

What the Marriage Needs
Another Principle: BtBTStB: _____
Be the Blessing THEN Seek the Blessing

You need to know what the _____ is to BE IT or to SEEK IT.
Blessing

How To Leave - Leave the Bad Stuff:

1. Think About What Was _____.

Bad

2. Understand _____.

Principles

3. _____.

What Would Be Good

“Natural Reactions” to Bad Stuff: 1. D: _____ 2. R: _____

Duplicate, Rebel

Both of Them are Symptoms of LiR: _____

Living in Reaction

UN: _____ - You don't do it. The ripples pile up.

Unforgiveness Nightmare

The garbage accumulates and poisons your Marriage Relationship - bleeds down to your children and poisons them, too - and you don't realize until it's too late... It's gone through you to your children - and now it's too late for you to stop it from hurting them. *Now it's up to them....*

Solution for The Parent: FPA: _____

Four Point Apology

1. For NK _____

Not Knowing

3. For NT _____

For Not Teaching

2. For ND _____

Not Doing

4. _____

For the Garbage You Let Pass Through You.

Cleave: MW, YW, OW: _____

My Way. Your Way. Our Way.

If you Leave properly, you show up without Garbage. But you only need one bed...

How to Cleave:

1. Know What YW _____ Is.

Your Way

2. Understand YOP _____.

Your Own Principles

3. Remember APMBCA: _____

All Principles Must Be Consistently Applied

Communication : ATol: _____

A Transfer of Ideas

Basic Communication Rule: UDBU: _____

Understand, Define, Be Understood

Basic Communication Technique: EWP: _____

Emotional Word Picture

Stephen Covey: HTA: _____

Higher Third Alternative

Even opposing points of view can come together and use the expanded awareness of variables others bring to the table, develop a New Way that is better than either of the starting options.

Principle: Pruning - GRoGStGBS: _____

Get Rid of Good Stuff to Get Better Stuff

John 15:2 - *"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes up; and every branch that does bear fruit, He prunes that it may bear more fruit."*

Leave Wrong. TtWS; _____

Take the Wrong Stuff

Cleave Wrong. TMHW, TMHW, OWNGW. _____

Too Much His Way, Too Much Her Way, Our Way Not Good Way

TMHW/TMHW creates a Relationship that is L: _____

Lopsided

Old: MD _____ - In Time, Women Rebelled.

Men Dominat

New: WD _____ - Still Not "Our Way"!

Women Dominate

OWNAGW: BS: _____ NT: _____

Bad Start, No Thinking

WBM: _____ - Choose Accordingly.

Watch Before Marriage

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MARRIAGE 3 of 6: Leave, Cleave, Be One Flesh
BE ONE FLESH

Be One Flesh: WAPNO: _____
We Are Partners, Not Opponents.

Be One Flesh: LOGOWT: _____
Live Out Our Good Way Together

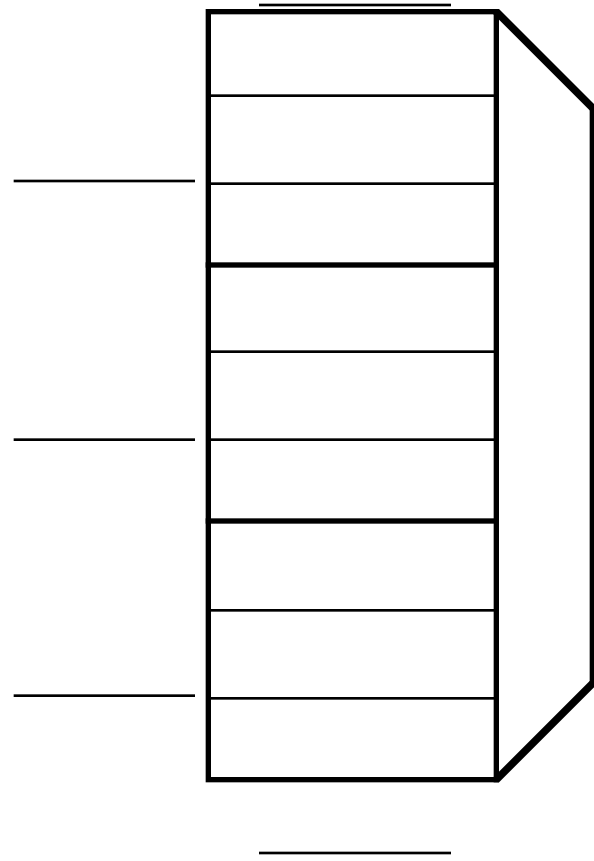
A New Creation. This Team has never before existed. Will it improve on old Teams? If so, How?
Synergy: The Whole is Greater Than the Sum of the Parts. $1+1=3$.

Carry a Long Table. Two people must be at the same place at the same time with the same goal.

Be One Flesh Wrong. LONGWT _____
Live Out Not Good Ways Together

Let's not ONLY get the "deeper principle" and overlook the "obvious" meaning: **S:** _____
Sex

The Most Awesome Sex: TLIC: _____
The Last Intimate Connection



The Most Awesome Sex Comes When
YCToB: _____
You Connect Top to Bottom

The Most Awesome Sex Comes When It Is a
Mol: _____
Manifestation of Intimacy
You Already Have! You don't GAIN intimacy by sex. You MANIFEST intimacy through sex.

The Most Awesome Sex Comes When
WAPNO: _____
We Are Partners, Not Opponents
LOGWT: _____
Live Out Good Way Together
Which means the Most Awesome Sex isn't selfish. The most Awesome Sex is "Our Way."

ST: _____
Sexual Technique
can NOT compensate for a lack of connection, a lack of intimacy, a lack of partnership, or a lack of unity. It may supplement physical pleasure, but it can NOT replace connection, intimacy, partnership or unity. However, when **ADDED** to connection, intimacy, partnership and unity with a touch of **A:** _____
Adventure
Sex can be truly A: _____
Awesome

"I'm waiting for A. S.W.I.M."
A. S.W.I.M.: _____
Awesome Sex When I'm Married
What if THIS were what our singles believed in their teens and twenties? Is there power in that?

JOINED BY GOD

BWoWYW: _____
Be Worthy of What You Want.

Genesis Marriage Relationship: LCBOF: _____
Leave. Cleave. Be One Flesh.

Back up to Genesis 1:1. God is Infinite in Genius, Infinite in Wisdom, and Infinite in Power. Consider our day to day lives - how much does God have to intervene in His system vs. how many things happen because God is a Genius, Wise, Powerful Designer and Engineer. Now...

Matthew 19:6: “What _____ let not Man tear asunder.”
God Has Joined Together

Pay attention to that and go back and look at Matthew 19: 3-10. If we consider that God is our Designer and Engineer - and if He built the system to that “He joins together” through “Relationship Physics” - then HOW does God “join together”?

By LCBoF: _____
Leave, Cleave, Be One Flesh

Do You Want to be “Joined by God”? Then Leave Right, Cleave Right, Be One Flesh Right. So... if we, as a church, wants the couples we marry to be “joined by God,” what needs to be covered in Premarriage Training?

HARDNESS OF HEART

Hardness of Heart: People would not follow the method God Designed for Marriage. The Law provided a way out. If we are under Grace, would you expect a harsher rule?

Hard Hearted, or in today’s language, Heartless - Generically means “Unchangingly Selfish.” In context of Matthew 19, apply that definition to the situation Jesus is discussing. In this case:

Hard Hearted. IWNLR,IWNCR,IWNBOFR: _____

I won’t Leave. I won’t Cleave. I won’t Be One Flesh.
Hard Hearted BUT Married. IWNBWoWIW,BIWWIW: _____

I Will NOT Be Worthy of What I Want, But I Want What I Want
Why Did Jesus Say Divorce Was Given? HH: _____
Hard Heartedness

If someone Will Not Leave, Will Not Cleave, Will Not Be One Flesh - should that person marry? A Hard Hearted Person is married.... lot’s of issues...

Agathos Marriage Rule: YDYP: _____
You Do Your Part.

Genesis 2:24 and Matthew 19 parts: Leave, Cleave, Be One Flesh.

“No Divorce Rule” - No Such Thing. Every religion has reasons for which divorce is permitted.

Agathos “You Do Your Part Rule.” There is never an excuse to NOT “Do Your Part.” If you do not “do your part” you have left the relationship - and torn the relationship asunder - and, therefore, a Divorce would only be the legal recognition that someone was not doing his or her part.

Divorce: TLRoarLSTA: _____
The Legal Recognition of a Relationship Long Since Torn Asunder

Tear Asunder: Leave, Cleave, Be One Flesh - Then Tear it Apart. Therefore, more completely, if you do not Leave, Cleave AND Be One Flesh - do not marry.

YCOCY: _____
You Can Only Change You

If you did Leave Wrong - You Can Change You.

If your partner did Leave Wrong - You Can Only Change You.

If you did Cleave Wrong - You Can Change You.

If your partner did Cleave Wrong - You Can Only Change You.

If you do your part of Be One Flesh Wrong - You Can Change You.

If your partner does his/her part of Be One Flesh Wrong - You Can Only Change You.

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MARRIAGE 4 of 6: Submission and Leadership

Ephesians 5:22a - "Wives submit to your husbands."

"Submit" is Hypotasso - **1)** to arrange under, to subordinate; **2)** to subject, put in subjection; **3)** to subject one's self, obey; **4)** to submit to one's control; **5)** to yield to one's admonition or advice; **6)** to obey, be subject.

To keep it pure, we'll only use verses that use exactly the same Greek word to help us understand.

Watch for WWoND "_____"

Win-Win or No Deal

Romans 13:1 - "Let every person submit to the _____."

Governing Authorities

Citizen to Government. What sort of Government do you think best?

Governments that oppress their people tend to lose the support of the people.

They may rebel, or some other power that cares about the people may step in.

"When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another..."

When the Government assumes the Right to do Wrong, we call that Tyranny.

Ephesians 5:21 - "Submit yourselves to _____ in the fear of God."

One Another

Ephesians 5:24 - "Just as the _____ submits to _____, so let wives submit to their own husbands in every sort of thing."

Church, Christ

James 4:7 - "Submit yourselves therefore to _____."

God

1 Peter 2:18 - "_____ submit to your _____ with all fear, not only to the _____, but to the _____."

Servants, Masters, Gentle, Unreasonable

Servants to Masters. What sort of Master do you think best?

Old Testament Slave Law: Seven years. Then he had a choice to stay or go.

Modern Employment Law, an employee may quit at any time.

Conventional Slavery: Right to Wrong your slaves. USA result? Civil War.

1 Peter 5:5 - "You _____, submit yourselves to your _____."

Younger, Elders

Younger to Elder. What sort of things should the Elders be doing with the Younger?

Youth learns from the older generations.

Younger in Christ learn from those more Mature in Christ.

This presupposes that the Elders are leading, teaching and mentoring good lessons.

"Traditional" Style - I'm the boss of you. Result? The 60s.

APMBCA: _____

All Principles Must Be Consistently Applied

Wives Submit to Your Husbands.

Governments must lead for the benefit of all the people or face defiance or rebellion.

Employers must produce value and give to employees or lose employees.

Elders must be an example that inspire Youth to follow.

What can we suppose about husbands?

Husbands must lead for the benefit of the whole family or face defiance or rebellion.

Husbands must fulfill the needs of his family and give to them or lose them.

Husbands must be an example that inspires his family to follow.

Take note of the internal commentary - **Ephesians 5:22-23** - "Wives submit to your husbands _____ . For the husband is the _____ of the wife as Christ is the _____ of the Church - He Himself being the Savior of the body. As the Church is subject to Christ, so wives ought to submit to their husbands in every sort of thing."

As to The Lord. Head. Head.

Even without the section about Husbands Love Your Wives, we can study Submission.

The "Head of the Family": H/F _____

Husband/Father.

The Role Model for Submission: C _____

Church.

The Role Model for Husband/Father: C _____

Christ

Church to Christ. What sort of things can we learn from Christ's example?

God became a Man, becoming something that is NOT normal for Him, for His Church.

Christ taught, explained, and was a good example.

Christ empowered His followers to be leaders, provided for their training, and sent a Helper.

Christ sacrificed His life for His Church, going through things He did not need to suffer and could have prevented or stopped at any time - but He did it for His Church.

Christ overcame insurmountable problems, literal Death in His case, for His Church.

Christ provided a clear mission for His Church.

Cults and Old Religions: You Sacrifice for Your God - period.

Christianity: Your God Sacrificed for You First - you reciprocate as much as you choose - but His Sacrifice for You stands by your mere acceptance of it - and you need not sacrifice in return to keep it. It's totally free, though you SHOULD respond.

Captain and Commander.

The Captain's orders may be _____ by the Commander.

Belayed

The Captain may be RoC _____ by the C _____.

Relieved of Command, Commaner

The Captain may be RoC _____ by the SD _____.

Relieved of Command, Ship's Doctor

The Captain may be RoC _____ by the MT _____.

Relieved of Command, Military Therapist

Actions by the Captain, Commander, Ship Doctor, and Therapist are subject to Review.

Bad Captains inspire Mutinty.

"Star Trek Leadership" - 1. KS: _____; 2. PS: _____

1. Kirk Style; 2. Picard Style

Too Many Husbands use "JS: _____"

Jujitsu Submission

In Jujitsu, "Submission" means you make someone "tap out."

Too Many Husbands use "A _____" style of "P _____"

Abdication, Partnership

They just "let the wife have her way" - code for "Make her do her job AND his job."

Dancing Style of Leadership and Partnership

The Gentleman Leads

The Lady Follows

The Gentleman cues his Lady. The Gentleman can see behind the Lady. The Lady can see behind the Gentleman. If the Lady resists, the Gentleman takes the cue and adjusts accordingly.

Agathos Interpretation Principle: Look for Responsibilities, NOT for Rights.

Wife Responsibility: S: _____

Submit

Single Woman Responsibility: LfHtWYCS: _____

Look for a Husband to Whom You Can Submit.

Husband Responsibility: L: _____

Lead.

Single Man Responsibility: LL: _____

Learn Leadership.

The one with the responsibility to submit looks to the partnership like a junior position.

The one with the responsibility to lead looks to the partnership as a full and equal partnership.

Genesis 41:41 - Pharoah and Joseph. Pharoah has the power to hire or fire. Joseph ran things.

Daniel 2:48-49 - Nebuchadnezar and Daniel. Daniel and Shadrack, Meshach and Abednego.

Nebuchadnezar put Daniel in charge of Babylon. He had the power to hire or fire him. Daniel worked in the Court. He appointed Shadrack, Meshach, and Abednego for the day to day operations.

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MARRIAGE 5 of 6: Leadership, Love and Lovability

Ephesians 5:25a - _____
 "Husbands love your wives."

To Be Loved: BL: _____
 Be Lovable

A Husband's OtL _____ is exactly equal to
 a Wife's OtS _____.
 Obligation to Love, Obligation to Submit

A Husband's OtL _____ is exactly equal to
 a Wife's OtL _____.
 Obligation to Lead, Obligation to Be Lovable

The Word "Love" in "Husband's Love Your Wives" is A: _____
Agape

HaS: _____
 Husbands also Submit
 to Government, Others, Employers, Christ, God - and thus model what HE means by Submission.

WaL: _____
 Wives also Love

Matthew 22:27, Mark 12:30 and Luke 10:27. "You shall Love the Lord your God with all of
 your heart, with all of your soul, and with all of your mind (and with all of your strength)."

Matthew 22:39, Mark 12:31 and Luke 10:27. "You shall Love your Neighbor as Yourself."
John 15:17. "This I command to you, that you love one another." (to Christians)

Agape: UL, CD _____
 Unconditional Love, Character Driven

The Bible gives us a complete definition of Agape in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

P: _____ Patient	nSO: _____ NOT Seek Its Own	Rejoices in the Truth B: _____ Believes All Things
K: _____ Kind	nP: _____ NOT Provoked	B: _____ Bears All Things
nJ: _____ NOT Jealous	nTAWs: _____ NOT Take Into Account a Wrong Suffered	H: _____ Hopes All Things
nB: _____ NOT Brag	nRU: _____ NOT Rejoice in Unrighteousness	E: _____ Endures All Things
nA: _____ NOT Arrogant	RT: _____	NF: _____ Never Fails
nAU: _____ NOT Act Unbecomingly		

Too Many Wives: PUtUNoA: _____

Presume Upon the Unconditional Nature of Agape
 Too Many Wives: MtFNoA: _____

Misunderstand the Finite Nature of Agape

Important Note: NiAiaF: _____
 Nothing in Agape is a Feeling

EiAiaC: _____
 Everything in Agape is a Choice

Being "Agape-able" means MEEoAE: _____

Make Each Element of Agape Easy

Look at the elements of Agape. As you consider each one, do you make it easy or hard for Others?

Doing Agape means HaAC: _____

Have an Agape Character

Look at the elements of Agape. As you consider each one, how well do you do it? Scale -10 to 10.

Do you want an _____? AN!:

Agape Based Relationship? Absolutely Not!

Why? Because of Luke 6:27 says LYE: _____

Love Your Enemies

_____ Wants the Exact Same Relationship with _____

that He is supposed to have with _____.

No Wife, Her Husband, His Enemies

P:CL, RB: _____

Phileo, Conditional Love, Relationship Based

E: P, S: _____

Eros, Passion, Situational

Phileo Bank Account. Phileo Math: $P=n$. $N=(n+1) \times 4$

Why $N=(n+1) \times 4$? $Ni4 \times MPtP$: _____

Negative is Four Times More Powerful than Positive

Question: WWitAG? _____

Which Way is the Account Going?

Modifier: M&A=1/8th: _____

Memories and Anticipation Equal One-Eighth

What Counts? EC: _____

Every Chunk

IAoM: _____

Interpretations Amplify or Minimize

LS: APE: _____

Love Stack, Agape, Phileo, Eros

Sequence: CRS: _____

Character, Relationship, Situations.

BWOWYW: _____

Be Worthy of What You Want

TBL:BL _____

To Be Loved: Be Lovable.

TBA:BA _____

To Be Agaped: Be Agape-able.

TBP:BP _____

To Be Phileoed: Be Phileo-able.

TBE:BE _____

To Be Eroded: Be Eros-able.

TLWtG: _____

The Lady Wins the Gentleman

Husband is a _____; Guarantee that he will have a _____ Wife?

Worthy Leader, Submitted

Wife is a _____; Guarantee that she will have a _____ Husband?

Lovable Woman; Loving

NG. _____ Why? FW _____

No Guarantees, Free Will

YCOCY: _____

You Can Only Change You

Agathos Principle: YDYP: _____

You Do Your Part

Ephesians 5:33b. "Let the wife see to it that she (_____) (_____) her husband."

Respect, Fear

Same Word as "Fear God." R:LUP: _____

Respect: Lift Up Person

WAPNO: _____

We Are Partners, Not Opponents

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MARRIAGE 6 of 6: Marriage Matrix and Master of Marital Arts: The Agathos Way

BASICS

90% Rule: _____

90% of Your Happiness or Misery Will Depend Upon ONE Set of Skills and ONE Decision.

BWoWYW: _____

Be Worthy of Whay You Want

BttRWtRN: _____

Bring to the Relationship What the Relationship Needs

YDYP: _____

You Do Your Part

PG/I4I: _____

Personal Growth/Independence for Interdependence

YCOCY: _____

You Can Only Change You

RiaV(FMP): _____

Relationship is a Verb (Friendships, Marriage, Parenting)

TOP TWO ISSUES TO PRE-SOLVE

F: _____

Finances

S: _____

Sex

VOWS: Marriage Contract, Marriage Covenant

L: _____

Love

H: _____

Honor

C: _____

Cherish

O: _____

Obey

P: _____

Have

P: _____

Hold

BoW: _____

Better or Worse

SoH: _____

Sickness or Heath

RoP: _____

Richer or Poorer

FO: _____

Forsake Others

C: _____

Cleave

UDDWP: _____

Until Death Do We Part

BoC-R,D: _____

Breach of Contract, Release, Damage

BoC-DoW: _____

Breach of Covenant, Declaration of War

BIBLICALLY:

Both:

L: _____
Leave,

C: _____
Cleave,

BOF: _____
Be One Flesh,

NTA: _____
Not Tear Asunder,

StL: _____
Submission to Leadership,

AC: _____
Agape Character,

RwG: _____
Relationship with God,

FotS: _____
Fruit of the Spirit

F: _____
Forgiveness

SF: _____
Self Forgiveness

NJ: _____
NOT Judge

NC: _____
NOT Condemn

NG: _____
NOT Gossip

Husbands:

FTL : _____
Family Team Leadership

LW: _____
Love Wife,

BR: _____
Be Respectable,

BU: _____
Be Understanding,

BPA: _____
Be Physically Available

Wives:

StFL: _____
Submit to Family Leader,

BL: _____
Be Lovable,

R: _____
Respect,

BU: _____
Be Understandable,

BPA: _____
Be Physically Available.

STAGE 1: Survival Relationship

Both:

SR: _____
Survival Responsibilities

Husband:

P: _____
Provide,

P: _____
Protect

Wife:

H: _____
Homemaker,

C: _____
Children

STAGE II: Fulfillment Relationship

LL: _____

Love Languages,

QT: _____

Quality Time,

PT: _____

Physical Touch,

AoS: _____

Acts of Service,

G: _____

Gifts,

WoA: _____

Words of Affirmation

P: _____

Personalities:

C: _____

Choleric,

S: _____

Sanguine,

M: _____

Melancholy,

P: _____

Phlegmatic

SM: _____

Sensory Modalities:

V: _____

Visual,

A: _____

Auditory,

K: _____

Kinesthetic

TM: _____

Temporal Modalities:

F: _____

Future,

N: _____

Now,

P: _____

Past

C: _____ - A Transfer of Ideas

Communication:

UDBU: _____

Understand, Define, Be Understood

EWP: _____

Emotional Word Pictures

DM: _____

Decision Making

P: _____

Principled

C: _____

Calculates

E: _____

Emotional

PS: _____

Problem Solving

R-WW: _____

Resolution - Win/Win

C-WLorLW: _____

Concede - Win/Lose or Lose/Win

C-LL: _____

Compromise - Lose/Lose

Both:

L: _____
Love,
R: _____
Respect,
A: _____
Attention,
C: _____
Cooperation,
P: _____
Play,

PGF: _____

Primary Gender Fantasy

80/20 Rule: _____

Expect 80% hit for 80% of the People, and 20% will be off by more than 20%

Husbands:

Ct: _____
Commitment to
H: _____
Her,
R: _____
Relationship
F: _____
Family,
FS: _____
Financial Support,
AR: _____
Affection/Romance,
C: _____
Conversation
OH: _____
Open/Honest

Wives:

PF: _____
Physically Fulfilling,
AP: _____
Attractive Partner,
A: _____
Admiration,
RC: _____
Recreational Companionship,
DS: _____
Domestic Support

Needs Rules

S-C: _____
Security - Certainty

A-U: _____
Adventure - UNCertainty

IW-PS: _____
Independent Worth - Power, Significance

C-LB: _____
Connection - Love, Belonging

G-KGB: _____
Growth - Keep Getting Better

C-MaRD: _____
Contribution - Make a Real Difference

Intimacy Rules

G: _____
God

R: _____
Religion

P: _____
Principles

O: _____
Others

W: _____
Will

M: _____
Mind

E: _____
Emotions

A: _____
Actions

S: _____
Senses

B: _____
Body

WA: _____
World Authority

WI: _____
World Influence

WE: _____
World Effect

Core Organizing Principles

RiMITAWB: _____
Reality is More Important Than Anything We Believe

APMBCA: _____
All Principles Must Be Consistently Applied

TBitUPSMfC: _____
The Bible is the Undisputed Primary Source Material for Christianity

Master of Marital Arts

S: _____ - One Who Studies
Student

S: _____ - Mentor, Senior
Sempai

S: _____ - Teacher
Sensei

R: _____ - Teacher of Sensei
Renshi

K: _____ - Teacher of Renshi
Kyoshi

S: _____ - Master of Art
Shihan

H: _____ - Master of Self
Hanshi

Fundamentally, Marriage is ARwaAotOS: _____

A Relationship with an Adult of the Opposite Sex

PANP: _____
People Are Not Perfect

MWBM: _____
Mistakes Will Be Made

HWYHM?: _____
How Will You Handle Mistakes?

BC:DWOP,DW: _____
Bad Character: Do Wrong On Purpose, Defend Wrong

GC:DWBM,FW: _____
Good Character: Do Wrong By Mistake, Fix Wrong

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 arose that marriage should be more than an economic arrangement for survival.

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 - this from a Puritan!

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 expectations had finished moving to Stage II: Fulfillment. In Stage 1, love meant a division of labor with a division of female and male interests. Husbands and wives might have gone months or years without even seeing one another, and when they did live in the same home, they still may not have slept 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.

What God Has Joined
What does the Bible really teach about divorce?
David Instone-Brewer | posted 10/05/2007 08:39AM
www.christianitytoday.com

I was being interviewed for what would be my first church pastorate, and I was nervous and unsure what to expect. The twelve deacons sat in a row in front of me and took turns asking questions, which I answered as clearly as I could. All went smoothly until they posed this question: "What is your position on divorce and remarriage? Would you remarry a divorcée or divorced man?"

I didn't know if this was a trick question or an honest one. There might have been a deep-seated pastoral need behind it, or it might have been a test of my orthodoxy. Either way, I didn't think I could summarize my view in one sentence; when I thought about it further, I couldn't decide exactly what my view was. I gave a deliberately vague reply. "Every case should be judged on its own merits."

It worked; I got the job. But I made a mental note to study the subject of divorce, and to do it quickly.

It's a good thing I did. As it turned out, I was surrounded by people who needed answers to questions raised by divorce and remarriage. My Baptist church was located near an Anglican congregation and two Catholic churches. Divorced men and women from these congregations came asking if we would conduct their weddings, having been denied in their local churches. Then I found that some of my deacons had been divorced and remarried. Should I throw them out of church leadership? If I did, I would lose people I considered some of the most spiritual in the church, people with exemplary Christian homes and marriages.

What Does the Bible Say?

The New Testament presents a problem in understanding both what the text says about divorce and its pastoral implications. Jesus appears to say that divorce is allowed only if adultery has occurred: "Whoever divorces a wife, except for sexual indecency, and remarries, commits adultery" (Matt. 19:9). However, this has been interpreted in many different ways. Most say that Jesus allows divorce only for adultery. But some argue that Jesus originally didn't allow even that. Only in Matthew does he offer an out from marriage: "except for sexual indecency." Beyond what Jesus says, Paul also allows divorce. He permits it for abandonment by a nonbeliever (1 Cor. 7:12-15). Many theologians add this as a second ground for divorce.

Yet some pastors have found this teaching difficult to accept, because it seems so impractical—even cruel in certain situations. It suggests there can be no divorce for physical or emotional abuse, and Paul even seems to forbid separation (1 Cor. 7:10).

As a result, some Christians quietly ignore this seemingly "impractical" biblical teaching or find ways around it. For example, they suggest that when Jesus talked about "sexual immorality," perhaps he included other things like abuse. Or when Paul talked about abandonment by a nonbeliever, perhaps he included any behavior that is not supportive of the marriage or abandonment by anyone who is *acting* like a nonbeliever. Many have welcomed such stretching of Scripture because they couldn't accept what they believed the text apparently said.

But does the literal text mean what we think it does? While doing doctoral studies at Cambridge, I likely read every surviving writing of the rabbis of Jesus' time. I "got inside their heads" enough to begin to understand them. When I began working as a pastor and was confronted almost immediately with divorced men and women who wanted to remarry, my first response was to

re-read the Bible. I'd read the biblical texts on divorce many times in the past, but I found something strange as I did so again. They now said something I hadn't heard before I read the rabbis!

'Any Cause' Divorce

The texts hadn't changed, but my knowledge of the language and culture in which they were written had. I was now reading them like a first-century Jew would have read them, and this time those confusing passages made more sense. My book, *Divorce and Remarriage in the Church* (InterVarsity Press), is a summary of several academic papers and books I began writing with this new understanding of what Jesus taught.

One of my most dramatic findings concerns a question the Pharisees asked Jesus: "Is it lawful to divorce a wife for any cause?" (Matt. 19:3). This question reminded me that a few decades before Jesus, some rabbis (the Hillelites) had invented a new form of divorce called the "any cause" divorce. By the time of Jesus, this "any cause" divorce had become so popular that almost no one relied on the literal Old Testament grounds for divorce.

The "any cause" divorce was invented from a single word in Deuteronomy 24:1. Moses allowed divorce for "a cause of immorality," or, more literally, "a thing of nakedness." Most Jews recognized that this unusual phrase was talking about adultery. But the Hillelite rabbis wondered why Moses had added the word "thing" or "cause" when he only needed to use the word "immorality." They decided this extra word implied another ground for divorce—divorce for "a cause." They argued that anything, including a burnt meal or wrinkles not there when you married your wife, could be a cause! The text, they said, taught that divorce was allowed both for adultery and for "any cause."

Another group of rabbis (the Shammaites) disagreed with this interpretation. They said Moses' words were a single phrase that referred to no type of divorce "except immorality"—and therefore the new "any cause" divorces were invalid. These opposing views were well known to all first-century Jews. And the Pharisees wanted to know where Jesus stood. "Is it lawful to divorce your wife for any cause?" they asked. In other words: "Is it lawful for us to use the 'any cause' divorce?"

When Jesus answered with a resounding no, he wasn't condemning "divorce for any cause," but rather the newly invented "any cause" divorce. Jesus agreed firmly with the second group that the phrase didn't mean divorce was allowable for "immorality" and for "any cause," but that Deuteronomy 24:1 referred to no type of divorce "except immorality."

This was a shocking statement for the crowd and for the disciples. It meant they couldn't get a divorce whenever they wanted it—there had to be a lawful cause. It also meant that virtually every divorced man or woman was not really divorced, because most of them had "any cause" divorces. Luke and Matthew summarized the whole debate in one sentence: Any divorced person who remarried was committing adultery (Matt. 5:32; Luke 16:18), because they were still married. The fact that they said "any divorced person" instead of "virtually all divorced people" is typical Jewish hyperbole—like Mark saying that "everyone" in Jerusalem came to be baptized by John (Mark 1:5). It may not be obvious to us, but their first readers understood clearly what they meant.

Within a few decades, however, no one understood these terms any more. Language often changes quickly (as I found out when my children first heard the Flintstones sing about "a gay old time"). The early church, and even Jewish rabbis, forgot what the "any cause" divorce was, because soon after the days of Jesus, it became the only type of divorce on offer. It was simply called divorce. This meant that when Jesus condemned "divorce for 'any cause,'" later generations thought he meant "divorce for any cause."

Reaffirming marriage

Now that we know what Jesus did reject, we can also see what he *didn't* reject. He wasn't rejecting the Old Testament—he was rejecting a faulty Jewish interpretation of the Old Testament. He defended the true meaning of Deuteronomy 24:1. And there is one other surprising thing he didn't reject: Jesus didn't reject the *other* ground for divorce in the Old Testament, which all Jews accepted.

Although the church forgot the other cause for divorce, every Jew in Jesus' day knew about Exodus 21:10-11, which allowed divorce for neglect. Before rabbis introduced the "any cause" divorce, this was probably the most common type. Exodus says that everyone, even a slave wife, had three rights within marriage—the rights to food, clothing, and love. If these were neglected, the wronged spouse had the right to seek freedom from that marriage. Even women could, and did, get divorces for neglect—though the man still had to write out the divorce certificate. Rabbis said he had to do it voluntarily, so if he resisted, the courts had him beaten till he volunteered!

These three rights became the basis of Jewish marriage vows—we find them listed in marriage certificates discovered near the Dead Sea. In later Jewish and Christian marriages, the language became more formal, such as "love, honor, and keep." These vows, together with a vow of sexual faithfulness, have always been the basis for marriage. Thus, the vows we make when we marry correspond directly to the biblical grounds for divorce.

The three provisions of food, clothing, and love were understood literally by the Jews. The wife had to cook and sew, while the husband provided food and materials, or money. They both had to provide the emotional support of marital love, though they could abstain from sex for short periods. Paul taught the same thing. He said that married couples owed each other love (1 Cor. 7:3-5) and material support (1 Cor. 7:33-34). He didn't say that neglect of these rights was the basis of divorce because he didn't need to—it was stated on the marriage certificate. Anyone who was neglected, in terms of emotional support or physical support, could legally claim a divorce.

Divorce for neglect included divorce for abuse, because this was extreme neglect. There was no question about that end of the spectrum of neglect, but what about the other end? What about abandonment, which was merely a kind of passive neglect? This was an uncertain matter, so Paul deals with it. He says to all believers that they may not abandon their partners, and if they have done so, they should return (1 Cor. 7:10-11). In the case of someone who is abandoned by an unbeliever—someone who won't obey the command to return—he says that the abandoned person is "no longer bound."

Anyone in first-century Palestine reading this phrase would think immediately of the wording at the end of all Jewish, and most Roman, divorce certificates: "You are free to marry anyone you wish."

Putting all this together gives us a clear and consistent set of rules for divorce and remarriage. Divorce is only allowed for a limited number of grounds that are found in the Old Testament and affirmed in the New Testament:

- *Adultery* (in Deuteronomy 24:1, affirmed by Jesus in Matthew 19)
- *Emotional and physical neglect* (in Exodus 21:10-11, affirmed by Paul in 1 Corinthians 7)
- *Abandonment and abuse* (included in neglect, as affirmed in 1 Corinthians 7)

Jewish couples listed these biblical grounds for divorce in their marriage vows. We reiterate them as love, honor, and keep and be faithful to each other. When these vows were broken, it

threatened to break up the marriage. As in any broken contract, the wronged party had the right to say, "I forgive you; let's carry on," or, "I can't go on, because this marriage is broken."

Therefore, while divorce *should* never happen, God allows it (and subsequent remarriage) when your partner breaks the marriage vows.

Reading the Bible and ancient Jewish documents side-by-side helped me understand much more of the Bible's teaching about divorce and marriage, not all of which I can summarize here. Dusty scraps of parchment rescued from synagogue rubbish rooms, desert caves, and neglected scholarly collections shone fresh light on the New Testament. Theologians who have long felt that divorce should be allowed for abuse and abandonment may be vindicated. And, more importantly, victims of broken marriages can see that God's law is both practical and loving.

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Extra Notes

If someone follows the "No Divorce" Rule - They can have a horrible marriage, pass that marriage down generations, that marriage can be the only gospel others read, but they will feel they did right.

Extra Danger: "No Divorce" rules, especially when combined with Courting Rules, can place really bad ideas in the heart of a child. They are taught they should not have ex-boyfriends or ex-girlfriends, and they are taught that you stay in relationships "no matter what" - and so they are conditioned to stay in bad relationships, and they are drawn to marry into bad marriages, because they are taught "you can't leave." Young people need to be trained in dating and courting.

If someone follows the "You Do Your Part" Rule - They must, necessarily, become a good spouse - making at least half of the marriage good - and if they get divorced - what gets passed down a generation is a standard.

"It's like trying to put a car together with broken parts. If you do that, the car won't work. But if you change some of the parts for new parts, it still won't work because it still has other broken parts." - Wendy Conway

You Do Not Do Your Part unless Your Partner Does His/Her Part

Justification: I can't do the right thing because it will Tear Asunder my relationship!

Message: You Go First, Maybe I'll Follow.

Motivation: Little. Why should I bother to change if you won't?

You Do Not Do Your Part and Leave if Your Partner Does Not Do His/Her Part

Justification: He/She isn't doing what they should do!

Message: I Want What I Want, and It Should Not Matter if I Deserve It.

Motivation: Little. It's just as much your fault as mine!

You Do Your Part and Give Your Partner Time, and Leave Only if He/She Does Not Respond

Justification: I must do the right thing before God and hope I can inspire and lead my partner. But if my partner is more committed to the Missed Mark than to Doing Right, I cannot stay.

Message: If You Don't Do Your Part, You Don't Deserve Someone Doing His/Her Part.

Motivation: Highest. I'll lose what I like if I don't do something.

You Do Your Part and Wait Forever.

Justification: I must do the right thing before God and hope I can inspire and lead my partner. No matter how good or how bad my partner is, I will stay to show my commitment to the status of marriage.

Message: I Will Give You What I Should Give You even If You Are Bad.

Motivation: Least. I get it all, and I can behave as badly as I want!