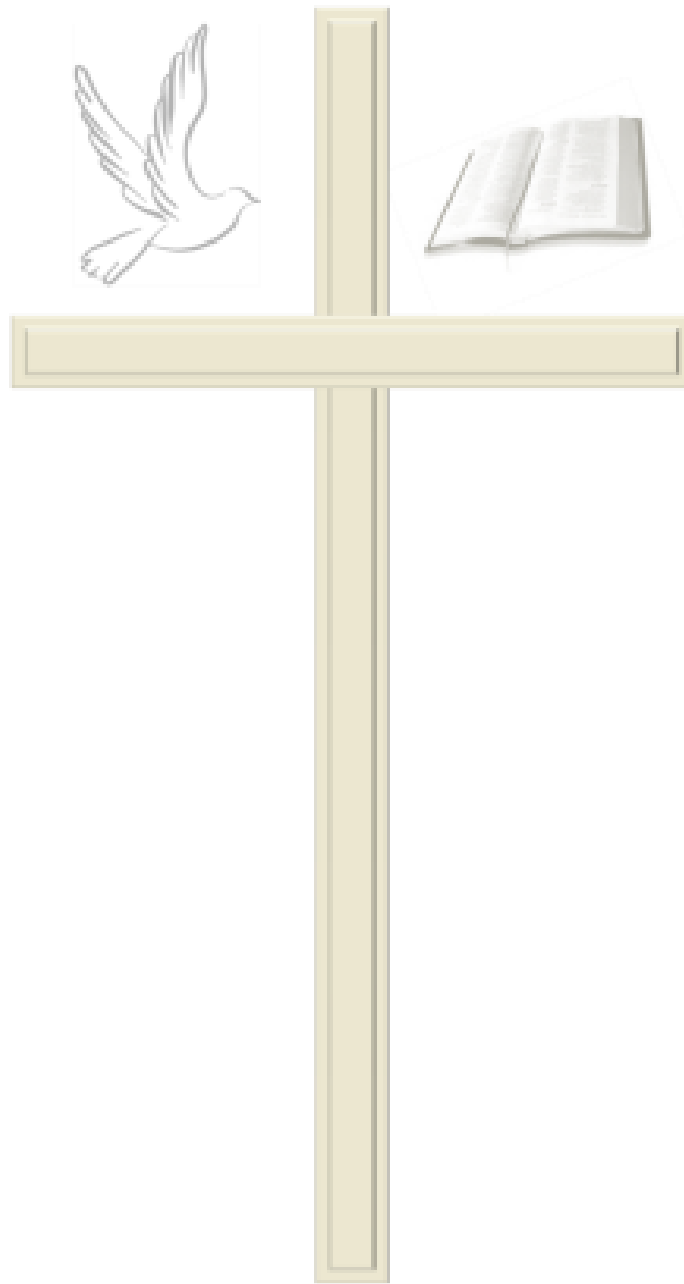


“Rules of Engagement III”

Marriage According to the Gospel **THE POLICY OF JOINT AGREEMENT 2**

February 04, 2017



Grace Bible Church – 2017

*“This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church” Ephesians 5:32
A fivefold relationship between the man and his wife.*

THE POLICY OF JOINT AGREEMENT 2

DISCUSSED:

Why do we need to agree? Because God demands it! Amos 3:3/Isaiah 1:18

1. So that we can walk this life of marriage together. (avoiding _____ / _____)
2. To discover the fruit of cooperation at the highest levels. James 3:18
3. So that God may honor your marriage. 1 Peter 3:7-8

THE MAJOR PREMISE FOR THIS POLICY?

“You are the most important person in my life”

“Our Marriage is a relationship of Extra Ordinary Care.”

“I will not be a covenant breaker. I intend to keep my vows and pledges” Ephesians 5:22-31

THE SAFE GUARDS

A Bible Based/Spirit Aided/Cross Centered Theology Hosea 4:6/John 6:63/Colossians 3:12-19

The Christian that is negligent with God and His word will not have the best marriage he can because the wisdom and promises of God are not governing his or her thoughts.

One or both of them will live a selfish life that God will not endorse. So that the marriage is doomed to mediocrity or spiritual, and relational weakness. Proverb 24:31-32

POLICY OF JOINT AGREEMENT

Policy = A policy is a principle to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes. All a person has to do to fail is to not have a plan.

1. When in the state of Intimacy, both spouses want the other to be happy, and neither spouse wants to see the other hurt. (Love)
Love is ready to? _____ John 13:1
2. In the state of Conflict, both spouses want to be happy and neither wants to see themselves hurt. (Selfish)
Selfishness is ready to? _____ James 4:1-2
3. In marriage, your interests and your spouse’s interests should be considered simultaneously.
“How Can We both Win?” Matthew 18:19-20
4. One of you should not suffer for the benefit of the other, even willingly, because when either of you suffer, one is gaining at the other’s expense. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7
5. If you both care about each other, you will not let the other suffer so that you can have what you want. Romans 13:10

THE POLICY OF JOINT AGREEMENT 2

Never, do anything, without an enthusiastic agreement between you and your spouse

When you are willing to let the other sacrifice for you, you are momentarily lapsing into a state of selfishness that must somehow be corrected before damage is done. The Policy of Joint Agreement provides that correction.

1. This rule teaches couples to become thoughtful and sensitive to each other's feelings when they don't feel like it.
2. If both spouses follow this policy, they avoid all the Love Busters because they won't mutually agree to anything that hurts one of them.
"Demands, disrespect and anger are eliminated because even negotiating strategy must be mutually agreed to, and no one likes to be the recipient of abuse."
3. Annoying behavior is eliminated because if one spouse finds any behavior or activity of the other annoying, according to the policy, it cannot be done.
4. It even eliminates dishonesty, because a lie is certainly not something that you would agree to enthusiastically.
5. It helps plug up the holes, in the sieve of the Love Bank that cause most couples to drift into loveless incompatibility.
6. It also forces couples to negotiate fairly.
7. The Policy of Joint Agreement forces a couple to find those solutions. None of the states of mind in marriage encourage them to do that, so they need this rule to override their instincts that prevent successful negotiation.
8. The Policy of Joint Agreement encourages couples to consider each other's happiness as equally important.
9. They are a team and both should try to help each other and avoid hurting each other. It just makes good sense. Why should one spouse consider their own interests so important that he or she can run roughshod over the interests of the other?
10. It's a formula for marital disaster, and yet some of the most well-intentioned couples do it from their honeymoon on. Galatians 5:15-20
11. The Policy itself prevents either spouse from making unilateral decisions about anything, so they must discuss every decision they make before action can be taken.
12. Spouses that follow this policy and meet each other's needs fall in love and stay in love with each other. "This process continually deposits love units in the bank." PJ

QUESTIONS!

1. Have you learned anything beneficial from the class so far? _____

2. Have you discovered new things about yourself that needs to change? _____

3. Have you found the class challenging to your marriage? _____

4. Is there anything about this class that you feel is missing? _____

5. Do the Rules of Engagement make sense to you? _____

6. How important is your happiness in marriage to you? _____

7. How important is your spouse's happiness to you? _____

8. How does this class help you prepare for marriage? _____

9. What other issues would you like to address that we have not? _____

10. Would you take this class again in 6 months? _____
