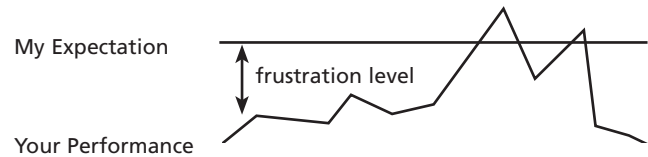
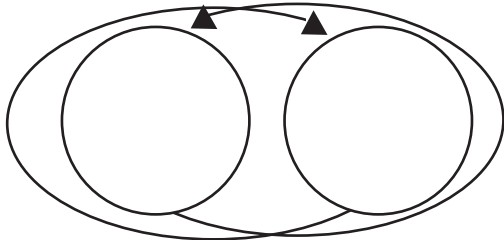


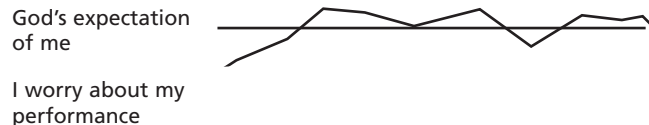
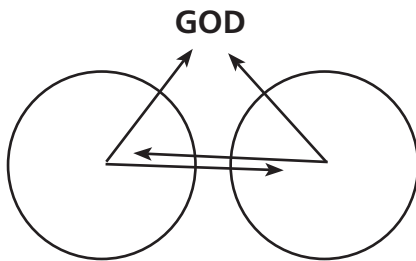
“Friendship”

- I do for you if you do for me (what I do for you is actually for me)
- fickle - no covenant
- friendship is dependent on what I get
- Negotiation becomes important.
- NB: irritation & frustration can become a life focus.
You don't see or feel the truth



Covenant

- We live for God, not self
- We fulfill God's call
- We are accountable to God
- We are sustained by God
- The Holy Spirit responds to our calling on him
- We are not just liberated from selfishness, we are satisfied in God
- This is the call to Holiness (Sanctification)
- Ideally frustration is eliminated - my expectation is on me, not you



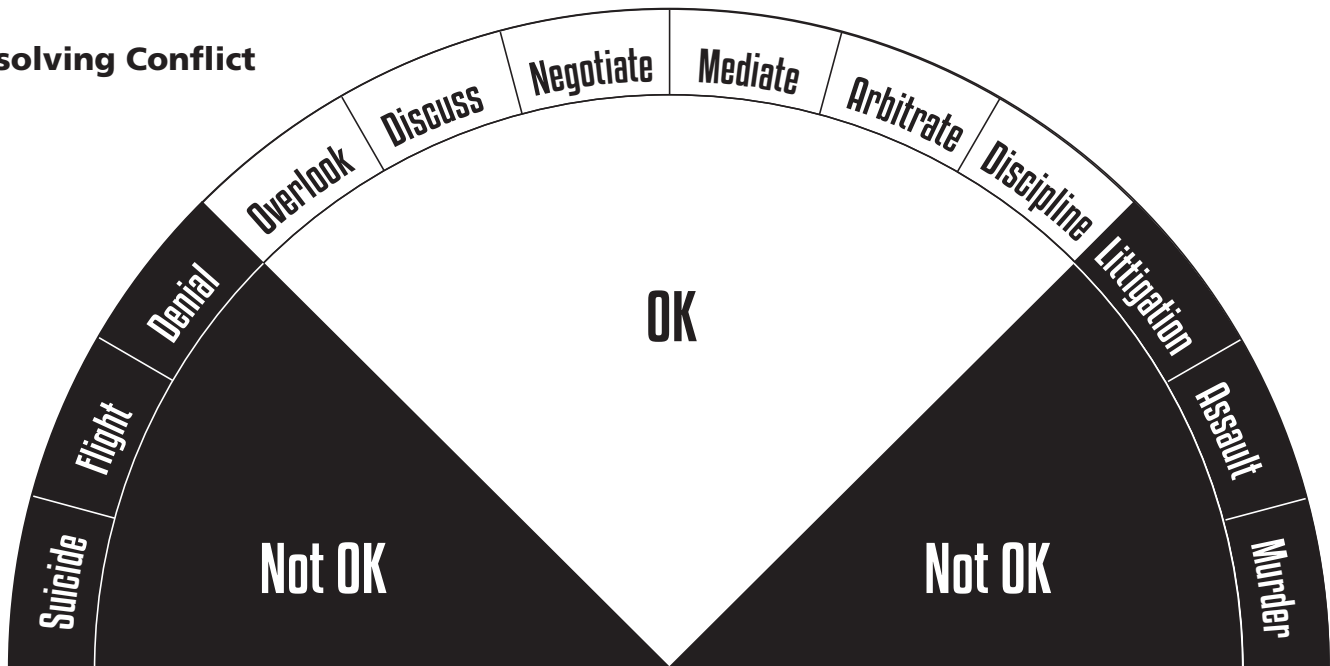
Without a Covenant relationship

- Domination (male) & manipulation (female) become relational forces - we try & change each other to suit ourselves.
- We live in a syndrome of reaction.
- We are tempted easily.
- We invite demonic influence into our family.

Without the giving, and receiving of forgiveness a covenant relationship is not possible.

Ephesians 6:2 "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth."

Resolving Conflict



Taken from Peacemakers Ministries - <http://www.hispeace.org>

Love languages (Gary Chapman)

Phil 2:4

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Choose to love each other in each other's primary love language:

- Quality Time
- Gift Giving
- Physical Touch & Closeness
- Acts of Service
- Words of Encouragement

The Difference between "Sorry" and "Please Forgive Me"

Matt 6:15

"But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."

- "Sorry" is for innocent mistakes.
- "Forgive me" is for intentional hurt.
- "Sorry" is conditional, "Forgive me" is unconditional.
- "Forgive me" puts you under the power of someone else.
- "Forgive me" values the relationship above the self.

Casual Sex

The culture of casual sex hookups and living together is becoming more and more the norm in our society. Fewer couples are getting married before having children.

Besides the very obvious devastation this renders on women and children in the form of unwanted pregnancies, and lack of male partner commitment, there are other reasons why God finds the practice abhorrent for people calling themselves by His name.

Ephesians 5:31–32 "31 *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.*" 32 *This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*"

We, as believers, represent Christ to the world. Paul makes it quite clear in Ephesians 5 that human heterosexual marriage (where lifelong faithfulness has been promised) represents God's relationship with His people (as opposed to those who are not his people).

We already know that humans represent God, either inadequately but acceptably or not at all. In the case of human romance and sexuality, we represent God and His love and pursuit of mankind, that some accept Him and others do not.

God does not get intimate with anyone before they have accepted His eternal promises. In the same way a man and woman exchange promises of lifelong fidelity and commitment before they become sexually intimate. That is the accurate representation, and it is also why God hates any deviation: casual sex; adultery; polyamory; homosexuality; transgenderism; divorce; rape; abortion; living together; etc (what the Bible calls "sexual Immorality").

It must be said that neither God nor His Church hates people who deviate from representing Him accurately, what they hate is the misrepresentation itself, precisely because of the burden it places on women, the damage it does to children, and the fracturing it creates in the fabric of our society. Far from these lifestyles affecting only those involved in them, they affect everyone in society. It's not the Church's job to tell the world how to live, but for those who call themselves by His name (another clear marriage reference) should live as He says to.

What is "Sexual Immorality" in the Bible?

1 Corinthians 7:2 "2 *But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.*"

John 8:41 "41 *You are doing the works your father did.*" They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.""

Sexual Immorality is mutually exclusive to Biblical Marriage:

The Bible communicates very clearly that this term "porneia" (in Greek) includes almost all sexual activity outside of marriage, and that marriage is defined biblically as the mutual and exclusive intimate relationship between a man and a woman as a result of lifelong promises of faithful commitment given publicly, witnessed and recorded. **Sexual Immorality and Marriage are mutually exclusive in the Bible**, not because God is old fashioned or a stickler for tradition.

Sexual Immorality and Marriage are mutually exclusive in the Bible because **Marriage represents God inadequately but acceptably, is the best platform for children, offers the best support for women, and is the foundation of successful society. Sexual Immorality is the exact inverse and does the exact inverse.**

Finding God's Will in your life

1 Thessalonians 4:1–8 "1 Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. 7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. 8 Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you."

Paul again counters Sexual Immorality "porneia", this time with Sanctification, and he links God's stated "will for you" being your sanctification.

We can deduce that Sexual Immorality is therefore against God's will for you. That includes casual sex, living together, group sex, any sexual activity outside the boundaries of Biblical marriage covenant; and we can see why this is God's will.

How then does one find God's more specific will—"who shall I marry?", "when shall we marry?", "where shall we live?"—if one has not obeyed His stated will? How do you find the second clue without following the first? Surely if we want to find God's specific will for our lives we should be very careful to obey his published will?

Paul goes on to juxtapose sexual self-control with sexual lust. He qualifies again that we wrong each other when we engage in sex outside of marriage commitment, the worst wrong is done to women and children in this regard.

He ends with a warning that disregarding God's will, disregarding God's pattern for secure families, put us in some degree or another at enmity with God and His Holy Spirit. This conflict will not necessarily preclude salvation for those practicing it, but it will skew the theology of those following, making it very difficult for their descendants to find their way to The Truth.

I dare say there are many other penalties (some of them eternal) that individuals bring upon themselves by disregarding God in this way, by why should we, His People, His Bride, called by His name, be so willfully belligerent? Surely we should submit and obey.

Romans 12:2 "2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Nowhere in Scripture are we instructed to substitute Biblical values and truth for cultural norms. The word of God is a living and active today as it was when it was written (Hebrews 3:12). It has the enviable track record of progressing every culture that has taken it seriously, for thousands of years.

Matthew 6:33 "33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

One of the first tasks of the disciple of Christ is to learn to **distinguish between their kingdom and God's; and then to determine to seek God's at the cost of theirs.** It places an impossible burden on the believer to try and find God's will for their lives while seeking their own kingdom. It cannot be done, first our kingdom must be laid down, sacrificed and then God's Kingdom and God's Righteousness must be sought.