

Real Freedom Talk
Magazine

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Love, Sex & Relationships



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SEX Beautiful, or Inexpressibly Terrible?

As a young man, I heard that sex is about families, not just individuals, and it stuck with me. Sex was meant to be the glue that binds together two souls, cementing the most important relationship in the most important unit of society: the family. The love expressed between a husband and wife through the ultimate act of giving of one's own life and body provides a foundation for a home filled with love, stability, and joy.



Kelly John Walker, M.S.

Since when are those bad things?



What everyone should know about sex is that it automatically wants to make its participants into family. The very act goes beyond just the physical; it begins a process of making two souls into one. This is the spark of a relationship that is meant to burn for life, completing two people in ways one person could never know. To deny that is to posit that sex is less than sacred, to cheapen it to a mere animal act.

Every time a person has casual sex without commitment, the natural tendency of the soul to find its complement is thwarted with painful results. When you have sex, your soul—your very being—begins to attach to another person. When you sever that bond, a little piece of your soul is violently ripped away, leaving you a little less whole.

Every wrong action—public or private—victimizes the very person performing it, and has an effect on society as a whole. Misapply the sacredness of sex enough in life, and you will become so scarred that you will no longer be able to feel. Through its abuse and misuse, one of the greatest joys created for humanity loses its pleasure.

"Terrible as what the world did to me," wrote Oscar Wilde, "what I did to myself was more terrible still." Wilde was famously jailed for

"gross [sexual] indecency."

Today, we would call it pedophilia.

Anthony Edwards explains in Oscar Wilde's

Scandalous Summer: the 1894 Worthing Holiday and the Aftermath, "A common canard

among those who know little about Wilde is that he was a martyr to Victorian injustice and hypocrisy. However...the trials were conducted fairly; and Wilde was fortunate that the maximum sentence available to the judge was two years, which Mr. Justice Wills described as 'wholly inadequate for such a case'. Today, men who have sexual relations with boys under sixteen can be sentenced to up to fourteen years in prison, and paying for sex with a boy of sixteen or seventeen carries a sentence of up to seven years. Wilde probably committed the first of these offences, and he was certainly guilty of the second."

Some naively consider Wilde a tragic hero, defying the "heteronormative" biases of the nineteenth century. Wilde, however, came to deeply regret his promiscuous behavior, for it left him hollow on the inside.

Sex misapplied rips away a piece of each person you use that they can never get back—and this piece will take residence in one's heart and leave less room for true love. This world is full of fragmented souls, continually looking for the next thrill, and losing more of their wholeness in the process. They rip away pieces of people, but don't commit to the whole.

Since when is that a good thing?

"Beautiful shall I call her, or inexpressibly terrible?"

—Nathaniel Hawthorne, Rappaccini's Daughter

Virtually every spiritual tradition makes a distinction between the physical body and the spiritual soul. "Dust thou art, to dust returnest, was not spoken of the soul," said Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his poem A Psalm of Life.

Science understands a lot about the brain but cannot locate or quantify the mind, the "self." All research has been able to determine is that the mind does not have a specific location, or shape or any other physical quality. Call it your mind, your soul, your spirit—however you want to refer to it—you are more than just your body. There is a "ghost in the machine."

While a thin film of rubber may (or may not) make sex safe for the body, it cannot protect your mind, soul and spirit—the “you” that lives inside and controls your body. Let’s be honest here. You can still be hurt by sex when you’re wearing a condom, and you can still hurt the one you’re sleeping with.

I know many people who thought “free sex” was great when they were younger but have deep regrets now that they are married and have a family—and face the dilemma of telling their own kids not to learn “the hard way” like they did.

We understand how sacrifice and resistance training benefit the body and increase its strength, health and freedom of movement. Yet somehow the same principle, applied to the spirit/mind/soul is widely considered repression, as a stifling of freedom.

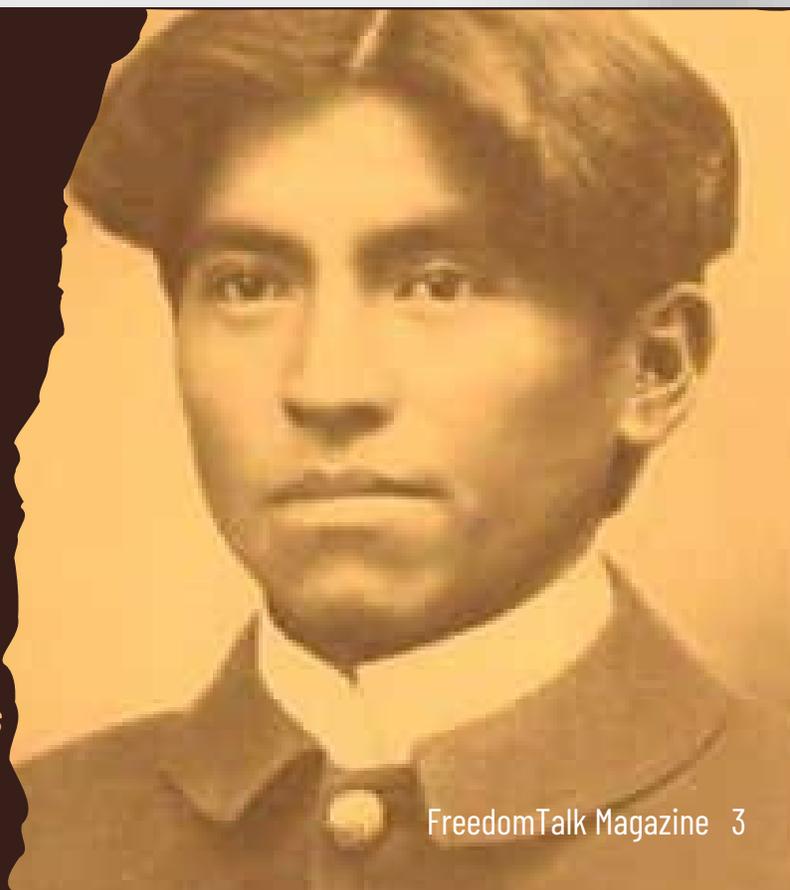
It is extremely difficult to start building the strength to resist temptation when you are in a committed relationship. This is like trying to get in shape for a marathon while you are running the marathon. If you have not previously developed through resistance training, then you will suffer greatly when it comes down to the real race. Maybe you alleviated some suffering by giving in to your impulses when you were younger, but now the stakes are much higher. You thought resisting temptation was hard when you were single, but that once you found the “one” it would be easier.

The truth is, that if you have not developed the character to focus on your true love even before you meet him or her, then things will probably become much more difficult and painful. If you have developed that strength from a young age, it will still be difficult at times, but you will have the spiritual muscle to truly love faithfully.

Disciplined love conquers all. Freedom is a long-term concept that involves sacrifice. A strong spirit is of infinitely more value than a momentary thrill or release.

Freedom cannot be gained by any number of sexual experiences, but it can be lost in one. Think about that. 🇺🇸

“The love between man and woman is to the Apaches a sacred thing. Never do they make obscene jokes about sex, and the fact that White Eyes consider conception and birth a matter of levity is something they cannot understand. It is, to them, on the level of taking the name of God in vain. I am very proud that in our language is no profanity. For the privilege of sharing in the creation of new life, we give thanks to the Creator of life.”
-James Kaywaykla, *Recollections of a Warm Springs Apache*





Catalina Stubbe

The Timeless Wisdom of Judeo-Christian Values in Love and Relationships



In an era dominated by swipes, likes, and digital connections, the foundational Principles of America's traditional Judeo-Christian values offer a stark contrast to modern dating culture. These values, which have shaped centuries of human interaction, emphasize commitment, purity, respect, and community over the transient pleasures of today's dating scene.

Love and Marriage in Judeo-Christian Tradition

At the heart of Judeo-Christian teachings is the notion that love is not merely an emotion but a commitment. Marriage, as depicted in these traditions, is a sacred covenant, not just between individuals but also before God. This covenant is built on pillars like fidelity, sacrifice, and unconditional love, as seen in the biblical admonition to "love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34). Marriage isn't about finding the perfect match but about growing together through life's trials and blessings, fostering a bond that transcends physical attraction or momentary compatibility.

Friendship and Community

Judeo-Christian values also stress the importance of friendship and community. Proverbs 17:17 states, "A friend loves at all times," highlighting the enduring nature of true friendship. In community settings, these values encourage serving one another, bearing each other's burdens, and living in harmony, which are crucial for societal stability and individual fulfillment.

Why Boundaries Matter

Relationships that ignore these traditional boundaries often lead to personal and societal detriment. The pursuit of self-gratification over mutual respect and commitment can result in emotional turmoil, broken families, and a lack of trust. For instance, the casualness promoted by modern dating apps can cultivate a culture of disposability in relationships, where individuals are seen as replaceable rather than unique partners for life.

The Shift in Dating Culture

Our grandparents' generation often approached dating with the intention of marriage, where courtship was about getting to know someone deeply, respecting their dignity, and often preserving virginity until marriage. This wasn't just about moral purity but about giving the most sacred part of oneself to one person, signifying commitment.

Contrast this with today's youth, where dating apps have transformed romance into a marketplace. The immediacy and anonymity of social media have led to a culture where physical intimacy often precedes emotional intimacy, and where the concept of 'saving oneself' for marriage might seem antiquated. While technology has broadened our horizons, it has also diluted the depth of human connections, fostering a transactional approach to love.

Relevance in Modern Times

The question then arises: Why should these traditional values matter today? The answer lies in the outcomes they foster. Societies that uphold these values tend to exhibit lower rates of divorce, stronger community bonds, and individuals who experience greater life satisfaction. The depth of connection in relationships based on Judeo-Christian principles provides a counterbalance to the often superficial interactions facilitated by modern technology.

However, this isn't a call to shun technology or modern methods entirely but to integrate them with wisdom. Perhaps what's needed is a blend of old and new—using technology to connect but with the intentionality, respect, and commitment of traditional courtship. Young people could benefit from understanding the value of patience, the beauty of anticipation, and the sanctity of giving one's whole self to another, not just in body but in spirit and promise.

While the landscape of love and relationships has undeniably changed, the core principles of America's Judeo-Christian heritage offer timeless guidance. By valuing commitment, purity, and community, we can rediscover the profound joy and stability that come from relationships built on more than just fleeting desires. As we navigate the complexities of modern dating, let's not forget the lessons of love taught by generations past, which might just be the key to healing our current relational woes. 🇺🇸



Catalina is a successful mother of four, rooted in her love of God & family, always advocating for the wellbeing of children. She's been featured on Fox & Friends with Kayleigh McEnany, War Room with Steve Bannon, Linea De Fuego (Univision) and more. She's a Colombian-American businesswoman, journalist, philanthropist, strategy adviser, contributor & commentator.

Unconditional Discharge & Farewells to Trump:

A Testament to Patriotic Love? by Joe Man 

In a moment that highlights resilience and national perseverance, former President Donald Trump was granted an unconditional discharge after being convicted on 34 felony counts related to alleged hush money payments during the 2016 election. Despite the controversial case, Trump began his second term on January 20, 2025, standing as a symbol of unwavering commitment to the American people.

Patriotic Love in the Face of Adversity

Throughout the trial, many Americans saw not just a legal battle but a test of their belief in the ideals of liberty, fairness, and love for country. Supporters argue the case was politically motivated, driven by forces that sought to silence a leader who spoke for millions. The alleged offenses, occurring beyond the statute of limitations, centered on a legal expense that was correctly categorized—a fact that many see as a testament to the political nature of the charges.

In the eyes of his supporters, Trump embodies patriotic love: the willingness to stand firm for the nation's values, even under intense scrutiny. This case, for them, reaffirmed their belief in a leader who fights not for himself, but for the people.

A Farewell with Grace?

Judge Juan Merchan, presiding over the case, concluded the trial with words that surprised many. Acknowledging the historical significance of the moment, he said:

"Godspeed in your second term in office."

These parting words were interpreted by some as a gesture of respect, reflecting the enduring bond of patriotism transcending political divides. Maybe, maybe not. But if so, it would be a glimmer of hope that the shared love for the nation may yet have a chance.

Trump's Resolve and the American Spirit

Speaking from his Mar-a-Lago estate, Trump described the trial as a "witch hunt" and a "stain on the justice system." Yet, his words also carried a message of hope, resilience, and unity: *"I will always fight for this country and for the people who make it great."*

For his supporters, these words epitomize the spirit of patriotic love—a devotion to America that refuses to waver, even when faced with overwhelming opposition.

A Leader for the People

Trump's return to the White House signals more than just a political victory. It represents the triumph of a movement that values freedom, justice, and a deep love for the nation. His second term, despite the controversy surrounding his conviction, is seen by his supporters as a mandate to continue fighting for the ideals that make America exceptional.

A Nation United by Love for Country

This moment reminds Americans of the importance of standing together, guided by love for their nation. Regardless of political leanings, the story of Trump's resilience serves as a powerful example of what it means to endure challenges for the sake of the greater good.

As the nation moves forward, it is this shared love for America—this patriotic bond—that will continue to define its future. 

Short list of
Historical Figures Targeted
by Lawfare

Alexandr Solzhenitsyn

Andrei Sakharov

Aung San Suu Kyi

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Jawaharlal Nehru

Jesus of Nazareth

John Hancock

Liu Xiaobo

Miguel de Cervantes

Mohandas Gandhi

Muhammad Ali

Nelson Mandela

Plato

Rosa Parks

Samuel Adams

Socrates

Sophie Scholl

Susan B. Anthony

Vaclav Havel

P.S. All the Founding Fathers



MEN ERASING WOMEN

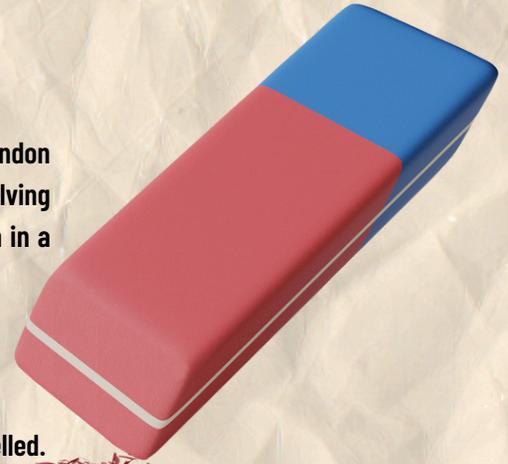
A woman, a victim of a previous sexual assault, went into a private hospital in London for a complex colorectal surgery. During the pre-op clinical assessment involving intimate procedures, she encountered someone she believed was a trans-woman in a blonde wig and make-up who left her feeling uncomfortable.

The patient, who had previously refused to use preferred pronouns, requested an all-female nursing team, saying “mixed sex hospital facilities are unsafe for women.” The CEO replied the hospital “did not share her beliefs” and, because she had caused “unacceptable distress” to the staff, her operation had been cancelled.

Meanwhile a male Muslim prisoner in the US was granted an exemption by a federal court from being strip-searched by a biologically female trans-guard because of his religious beliefs.

Between them, the two cases illustrate how culture wars are intersecting with medical and social practices. Biologically defined sex-based rights are being pushed aside by the vague, fluid and subjective social constructs of gender identity.

In retrospect, I wonder if the biology-denying drive to self-defined gender identity helped to pave the pathway to the anti-scientific madness of lockdowns, masks and vaccines. The no-limit trans spectrum seems to run from genuine gender confusion to fetishism, perversion, paedophilia, child abuse, misogyny and denial of female same-sex attraction in the insistence that lesbians who refuse to have sex with trans-males are transphobic and gender-critical lesbians are TERFS.



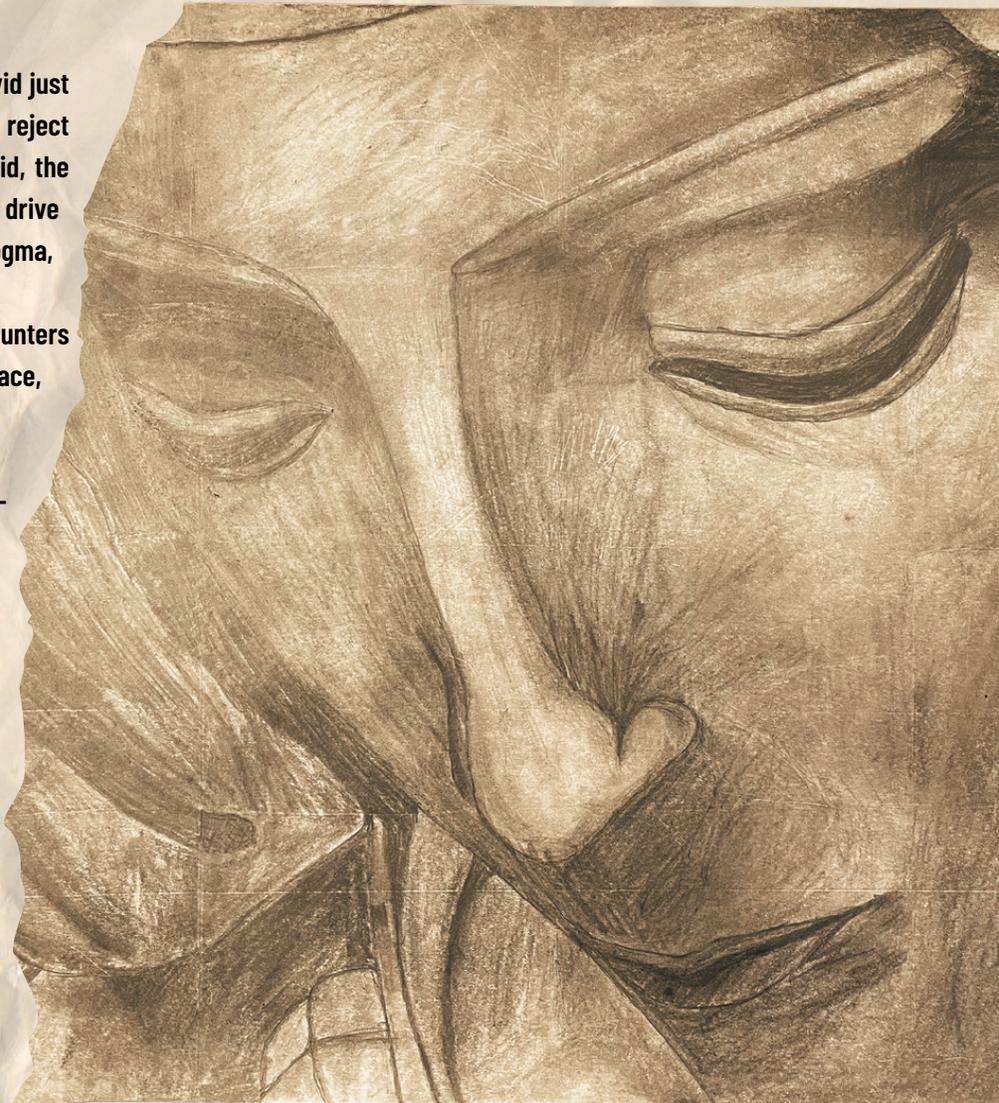
Transgender Successes as Precursor to Science-Denying Covid Policies

Many of us are still trying to puzzle out with Covid just what happened. How did we ignore science and reject data to get to where we are? Well, before Covid, the trans movement was the single most successful drive to displace science and data with ideological dogma, at least in the West.

The only concession is if the drive encounters another intersectional sensitivity of religion or race, like Islam or Black Lives Matter whose protests were exempt from shelter-at-home restrictions.

The precursor-cum-precondition of the gender-fluidity-driven changing social practices was the preferred pronouns initiative. Jordan Peterson was right in 2016 to reject the government diktat on pronouns untethered to biological reality. What Peterson asserted as his freedom of speech was denounced by opponents as hate speech.

Illustration: Kaden Walker, Age 12



Language matters, for it controls the narrative. The war against women's identity, rights, privacy and dignity is lost once you accept the science fiction of addressing a 6'6" bearded man with a functioning male organ which he will proudly display in a woman's spa, regardless of how embarrassed and offended the Korean-American girls and women in there might feel, as "she/her."

At that point you have locked yourself into a lose-lose trap. How can you possibly refuse someone you call "she/her" the right to use a woman's toilet or changeroom and compete in a women's swimming competition?

Men Erasing Women

The idea behind the move to preferred pronouns is that everyone's own conception of their gender identity deserves the protection of law. The unintended and perverse yet entirely predictable consequence is that the wilful suspension of biological reality with pretend facts is a threat to women.

There is good reason to create women-only safe spaces in toilets, changerooms, refuges, crisis services, prisons and sports. Efforts to use the full force of the law to coerce and compel everyone to genuflect to biologically false facts is reminiscent of communist totalitarian systems where people must show obeisance to party diktats or risk the public humiliation of show trials, confession of errors and spells in re-education camps.

Their intolerant and belligerent demand amounts to: pay us the respect due to us men as self-identifying women, or we will make you pay for your lack of respect.

The "preferred pronouns" culture feeds into and enables abusive men while silencing their victims. Irish teacher Enoch Burke has preferred to go to prison rather than address a trans-male student as "they" instead of "he." J K Rowling mocks bearded males defining what a woman is.

Too many have been cowed into silence and go along meekly with the claim that "penis holders" are really women, men can become pregnant, doctors, nurses and midwives must be trained to help men give birth, trans-males committing rapes must be documented as women rapists, and males self-identifying as women must be allowed to compete in women's competitive sports despite decisive biological advantages in size, strength and stamina.

Or do we really believe that US Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson and Australia's former Chief Medical Officer Brendan Murphy don't know the meaning of "woman?"

In effect men are once again deciding all the core rights about women. On the one hand, none of this would be possible without first denying that sex is a biological fact that cannot be subsumed under gender as a social construct. On the other, once the preferred pronoun movement is appeased in law, what defence is left against its extreme claims?

Women are no longer prepared to shut up and put up. Instead, increasing numbers have stopped being a good girl and are making their voices count. 🇺🇸



Common elements with the pandemic policy syndrome include:

- Elevation of feelings above facts, dogma over data;
- Overturning all existing science, knowledge & understanding of males and females for all of history preconditioned people for throwing out a century's experience, science & policy settings on pandemic management;
- Technocrats and experts insisting they know best;
- Governments being brainwashed or intimidated into conceding and changing laws accordingly;
- The laws then being used to coerce citizens into compliance;
- Shame being used as a key psychological tool of emotional manipulation;
- Biologists and medical personnel, despite knowing the transgender drive was science denialism,
- became complicit through silence because they chose to keep their heads down;
- The partnership with Big Tech to "fact-check," censor and disappear contrary viewpoints;
- The insistence that experimental interventions are safe and effective;
- No limit to the collateral harms accepted as mere roadkill on the highway to social justice heaven.



Ramesh Thakur

Ramesh Thakur, a Brownstone Institute Senior Scholar, is a former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, and emeritus professor in the Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University.

The "Evil Empire" Reincarnated?

The West's resurrection of the Marxist monster menaces Christian belief in marriage.

Remember when Reagan referred to the Soviets as "the evil empire?" In an ironic twist of fate when Reagan called out the old Soviet Regime for their atheistic communism, it is now the East preaching to the West that they are "the kingdom of the Antichrist" because the West is trying "to destroy the family, sex, and the nature of human beings." The East also asserts that "the United States is the center of its expansion."

One would be hard-pressed to repudiate such claims, given our propensity for killing babies in the womb and for proselyting or at a minimum tolerating the LGBTQ+ quasi-religion which was launched into overdrive by SCOTUS's sacrifice of the sanctity of marriage upon the altar of homosexuality.

Patriarch Kirill, who heads the Russian Orthodox Church, recently claimed that the West's acceptance of this ideology "smells of apocalypse." He went on to argue that "Russia poses a civilization challenge to the West" because the West has abandoned their Christian values.

Reagan referred to the Soviets as "the evil empire" because the Soviets believed that "everything is moral that is necessary for the annihilation of the old exploiting social order."

The updated version of this philosophy is now parading under the LGBTQ+ banner. This philosophy seeks to destroy the "old exploiting social order" of Christianity and to replace it with their six pillars of diversity, inclusivity, equality, tolerance, compromise, and critical race theory.

This new and improved version of the old Soviet system has forced an undeniable seismic shift within the West. It has been preached with a missionary-like zeal throughout our entertainment venues, educational institutions, social order, and political rules-based directives to the point where no one, including the leaders of our so-called Christian churches, will even call out these biblical abominations by name.

Madame Publius

Politically speaking, even some conservatives are quick to point out their allegiance to the LGBTQ+ crowd along with an acceptance for the need to compromise with the baby killers' crowd—incoming administration not excepted.

Those in the East have also expressed their concern for the gaslighting proficiency of the West's new anti-Christian social order noting that their leaders "consider themselves to be representatives of God on Earth, although they themselves do not believe in God." Compare that to President Putin's recent confession that "I believe in God. And God is with us."

The West seems intent on destroying the last remaining vestiges of traditional Christian values all in the name of their six pillars of indoctrination. Add this to the fact that, under the direction of the United States, NATO and their armies have gathered against that eastern nation to make war against it.

The reincarnation of the Evil Empire's philosophy has thrown the West's Christian foundational belief of marriage into what the LGBTQ+ crowd considers to be the trash bin of prejudice, bigotry, and backward thinking.

It is not a stretch to think that the powers attempting "to destroy the family, sex, and the nature of human beings" in the West are the very same powers targeting the largest nation in the East that presently stands for traditional Christian values.

Noah acted alone and preserved his marriage and family during a time of "wickedness" and ever present "violence." How much instability and abomination will it take in our day before we decide to protect our marriages and families as did Noah...or is that just "too extreme?" 



Full article, *Marrying and Giving in Marriage* available [HERE](#)

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Magazine

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Does Marriage Matter in Today's World? »

**Tú eres la copa que esperaba
los dones de mi vida.**

**You are the cup that was waiting for the gifts of
my life.**

-Pablo Neruda, La Noche en la Isla

Why is marriage a covenant not to be broken except by “death do us part,” or after infidelity or abuse? Can't two people just agree that they love each other? Isn't love enough?

Perhaps there is a reason for such a strong and binding vow. The traditional wedding vow is some variation of the following:

“I take you to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.”

For worse, for poorer, in sickness...these aren't things that most blushing brides and expectant grooms really have on their minds on their wedding day. Most likely, they repeat these words without even engaging the brain and forget what they've said by the time the kiss is over. But in these words is a mystery, and something potentially wonderful and God-like. It is a mystery of self-sacrifice for another person that embodies the highest love that a human can give another. This isn't a love for the faint of heart. It takes work and can be quite painful. It is, quite literally, giving your life for another.

“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends,” said Jesus, someone who knew something about giving his life for people He loved! The apostle Paul said that husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her. Christ literally gave his life for his bride. Are you ready to do that? Do you know what you are signing up for?

Romantic love or friendship love isn't going to cover this level of giving. It takes sacrificial love, a love that keeps giving without expecting anything in return. It's the kind of love that William Shakespeare said, “bears it out even to the edge of doom.”

We make such a solemn promise before God in part because we are going to need to give and receive a lot of this kind of sacrificial love ourselves. No one marries a perfect person. You are going to let your wife down, and she is going to let you down. You are going to make mistakes. You will have habits that she thought were cute when she met you but that drive her crazy by year five. You may have deep struggles in your life, demons to overcome, hard lessons to learn, “worse-poorer-sickness” kinds of things. There will certainly be times that you will be difficult to be around, and you may even have character flaws that take years to overcome.

Your marital covenant, ideally, assures you that you will have a best friend who will ride it all out without jumping ship—not because she always feels like she wants to and not because things are “better-rich-in health”—but because she signed up to stand by one person for life: you!

Your wife made an agreement with God to be the one person in life who will help you, love you, pray for you, be your friend... no matter what life brings. You should be able to rest in that promise—but never take it for granted! You have a responsibility to do all you can to change in ways that are going to create harmony in your relationship.

Treat her like gold, boy! She's going to put up with a lot for you! Cherish her. Be humble and teachable. Apologize. A lot. Make her feel like the most special woman in the world. By all means, be ready to love her unto death, even if at times she is not treating you lovingly! It's what you signed up for! Learning to love someone unconditionally develops your potential to become a remarkable human being.

Marriage is hard... some days. And boring, and exciting, and blissful, and any number of things you can imagine. But one thing's for certain, it takes hard work! Most things worth doing in life involve hard work and dedication.

Michael Jordan did not start out as one of the greatest basketball players ever. It took a lot of practice, focus, teamwork, a lot of missed shots, lost games and disappointments along the way. Sticking with it through the hardship and sacrifice made him great.

Every athlete, artist and professional knows that greatness requires struggle. Young boys expect that they will just naturally be the world's best wooden swordsmen or great rock climbers. They are easily frustrated when they can't do something well right away. As they get older, they learn the importance of practice, courage and a refusal to give up just because things are hard.

In rock climbing, you won't go anywhere but down if you let go. Every climb has its hardest, most challenging part, called the crux. To get past a crux, you have to hold on, work hard and think your way through. It takes focus and mental strength. Every relationship will also have its cruxes.

Crux. It's an interesting word, Latin for “cross,” as in “crucifixion.” A crux is a crossroads where we either willingly sacrifice for a higher cause...or we back down. Any climber worth his or her salt will tell you that anyone who walks away from a crux, who doesn't fully commit and hang on, is a wannabe. A real climber will stay at the same climb—no matter how many times they fall—until they complete it, because they see past the pain to the reward of their hard work and endurance. You can only know the reward of getting past a crux if you hold on, keep climbing, and focus on the goal. It will be worth the view at the top and you will be proud of yourself for finishing what you started.

Marriage can give you courage, commitment and patience to weather the difficulties that life throws our way; virtually everything else in life requires these qualities. There are many pitches ahead of you, but keep climbing and you will feel a sense of accomplishment and look forward to going even higher. 

“It is the nature of love to bind itself, and the institution of marriage merely paid the average man the compliment of taking him at his word.”

—G.K. Chesterton

HISTORY'S MOST INTREPID

Life lessons from the most face-meltingly awesome leaders of all time



[LISTEN](#)



Teddy Roosevelt was a man so over-the-top tough, he could make Chuck Norris start hyperventilating into a paper bag at the mere thought of his awesomeness. This guy got shot in the chest by some jerkweed just before a campaign speech in 1912. But Teddy Roosevelt didn't go to a "safe space" and write some gun control legislation or something. He stiffened his immense titanium backbone and went on stage. His opening remarks were,

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I don't know whether you fully understand that I have just been shot; but it takes more than that to kill a Bull Moose."

Rough riding Teddy then proceeded to give a 90-minute speech, since he wasn't coughing up blood or major organs. (What's a mere bleeding flesh wound to a president who acts as his own Secret Service bodyguard?)

This is just one of the stories about a man so magnificent, it could make your head explode just thinking about it. He single-handedly dug the Panama Canal, created our national parks with a pen, broke up huge monopolies run by Capone-like gangsters, and hunted the Sasquatch to near extinction (the creature remains in hiding to this day).

Now, you can duck and run from the "flying bullets" of modern-day challenges to free speech—criticism, trolls, "community standards," and such—or you can gird up your loins and just keep speaking truth.

Once you resolve to get into the arena, don't be afraid to be "marred by dust and sweat and blood." If you know what you want, go after it like a bull moose, knowing that "it is not the critic who counts." It is the intrepid who make the history books and ultimately succeed, because they take calculated risks, dare to be different and get their voices out there regardless of the challenges.

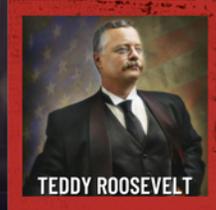
After the speech, doctors discovered that the bullet had lodged three inches into one of Teddy's Lou-Ferrigno-sized pectoral muscles. He carried the bullet in his body for the rest of his life. No big deal. 🇺🇸

*Enjoy our documentary with Teddy Roosevelt "live!"
(Actor, Joe Wiegand)*



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Marriage Put To Ultimate Test As Couple Hangs Curtains Together

DRAPER, UT – A local couple put their relationship to the test after agreeing to hang a set of new curtains up in their spare bedroom over the weekend. "We've always enjoyed a strong relationship," Amy Jensen explained as she watched her husband David balance precariously on the top rung of a step ladder. "I'm not worried about something as trivial as-oh, wait, honey...are you going to hang them that high?"

David and Amy Jensen celebrated their fifteenth anniversary just a few days ago and say they decided to take on the project together as a way of checking on the strength of their relationship. "I love Amy, she's my soulmate," David said. "She's my rock and...hey sweetheart, you can't pull on the curtain rod to level it out after I've already screwed it in, it's level, I promise. Amy. Amy, stop."

Earlier in the day, the couple successfully navigated a joint trip to Ikea which saw only a small dispute in the kitchen section over whether or not they needed a new salad bowl even though they already have 4 in the cupboard at home, and a slight argument over which doormat looked the least like 'your gay cousin Mason lives here'.

"We're strong, we're tough," Amy commented, "We made it through his mom staying with us for three weeks, we can definitely make it through something as simple as hanging a set of curtains up. David, honey, the pattern should face the inside of the room, not the street. David, are you listening?"



Image courtesy of Etsy.com/Shop/SharpWriter

Now you know why we don't see much of bigfoot these days. Just sayin'...

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WEAPONIZED EMPATHY



AARON T MILLER

As the US enters a new year and a new Presidential administration, many in the Conservative movement are breathing a sigh of relief. President Trump is reentering the White House with a powerhouse of a cabinet expected to emerge from Congressional hearings largely unscathed. Economic experts are heralding new levels of confidence in the economy on the part of industry leaders, and foreign corporations are lining up to invest in US-based companies and operations. There is a general feeling of assurance, hope, and reprieve.

Despite these positive feelings, deep down, most understand that the culture war is not over and that this is simply a lull in the fighting. As any good commander would advise, now is the best time to rest, refit, and retrain in preparation for the battles to come.

In keeping with the timeless advice given by the ancient Chinese general and philosopher Sun Tzu "If you know your enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the outcome of a hundred battles," let's take a closer look at one of the most common tactics used by the Left: Weaponized Empathy.

At its heart, Weaponized Empathy uses one's natural empathetic tendencies as leverage to manipulate them into changing their point of view, taking action on a particular issue, or shifting the dynamics of a debate to put one on the defensive. While Conservatives and most Moderates consider empathy, the ability to understand and share the feelings of others, to be a virtue, many Leftists see it and use it as a way to manipulate and outright control others. There is certainly no shortage of examples of it, either. Indirect forms of Weaponized Empathy can be used as a framing device, such as insisting on the substance of amorphous and tenuous concepts like "privilege" to evoke a sense of guilt and, in doing so, open the door for acceptance of higher-level (but no less amorphous) concepts like Critical Race Theory or Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as a way to assuage that guilt. It can also be used more directly by implying that one is not exercising a principle or belief that one holds dear. How many of us have seen someone who is not themselves a Christian accuse someone who is of holding a belief or taking an action that "isn't very Christian" of them? This form of disingenuous bad-faith argument is central to the direct deployment of Weaponized Empathy.

Perhaps more importantly to this exploration of the concept, one must also understand why Weaponized Empathy is so effective. Particularly in the West, empathy is a key part of a Christian lifestyle, steeped in the principles of the faith and key to loving one's neighbor, motivating one to be charitable to others, and ultimately, tying entire communities together. It is here that the effectiveness of Weaponized Empathy is laid bare:

Western civilization is, in large part, a testament to the importance of empathy to a community.

Shared empathy, along with a shared moral code, is

Based on "The Dying Achilles" by German sculptor Ernst Herter.

Artwork: Kelly John Walker

WEAPONIZED EMPATHY

crucial to building a High-Trust society in which individuals can depend on one another to do the right thing, steered by common principles and values. Weaponized Empathy, as the name suggests, perverts this powerful and natural inclination in order to use the psychological and emotional momentum of the person using it against them in a type of psychological Judo.

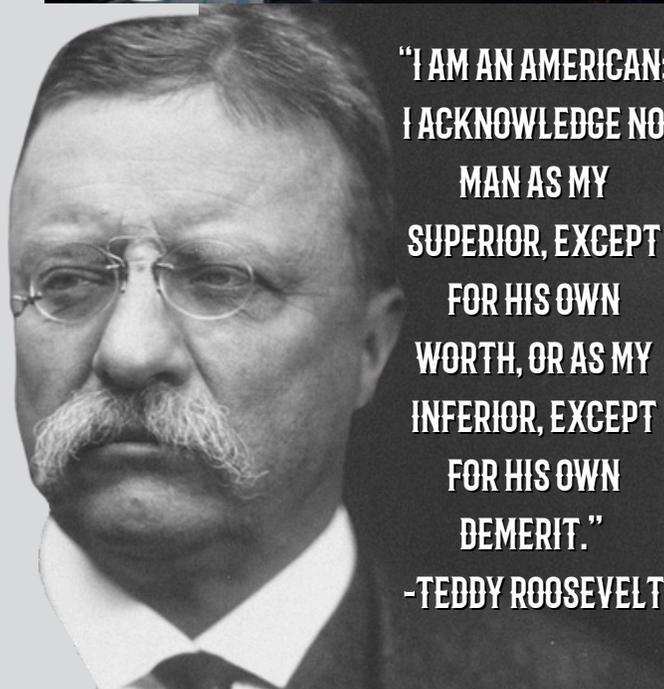
So, how can one combat Weaponized Empathy? First, one must identify when it is being deployed. True empathy and Weaponized Empathy hinge on intent and genuineness. When engaging in conversation or debate, when Weaponized Empathy may be used, take note of who the other person is. Are they someone who shares your beliefs and values? If not, are they earnestly engaging in the topic of discussion to share their ideas and beliefs, or are they seeking to “pin” you through subversion and emotional manipulation? Most individuals have a sixth sense of how one is engaging with them, but it is like a muscle: it must be exercised regularly to keep it strong. Once it has been identified, one has a decision to make in how they respond to it. They can, of course, ignore it or respond in kind. However, perhaps the more effective way of dealing with it is to point it out, describing exactly how the other person is deploying it and why it is made in bad faith. Like most creatures of darkness, Leftists can rarely tolerate the light. This changes the dynamic between the individuals, effectively turning the guilt that the tactic was meant to invoke onto the person deploying it.

Like many forms of emotional and psychological manipulation, Weaponized Empathy uses the human mind and one’s personal values and beliefs against them to manipulate and control. But that power can be neutralized with a sharp eye and a clear mind by identifying it and shining a light on it. However, these things are easier said than done. That is why it is crucial that Conservatives and Moderates understand what it is, why it works, and how to turn the tactic in on itself. In doing so, they can begin to regain control of not only individual conversations with those with whom they disagree but also national conversations and, with them, the culture. 🇺🇸



Aaron T. Miller is a County Commissioner, veteran, and doctoral candidate living in Tennessee with his wife and children. Finding a love of learning after a fifteen-year career in the US Air Force, he holds a BA in Political Science, an MA in International Affairs, an MS in Management, and is pursuing a doctorate in Public Administration. With a storied history in political involvement, he is always looking for new organizations to help within the Liberty movement. When he isn’t studying or debating policy, you can find him spending time with his family, organizing grassroots efforts across the State, or acting as a consultant for local candidates and organizers nationwide.

DANIEL'S BARBERSHOP ON THE SQUARE



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INFERIOR, EXCEPT
FOR HIS OWN
DEMERIT."
-TEDDY ROOSEVELT**

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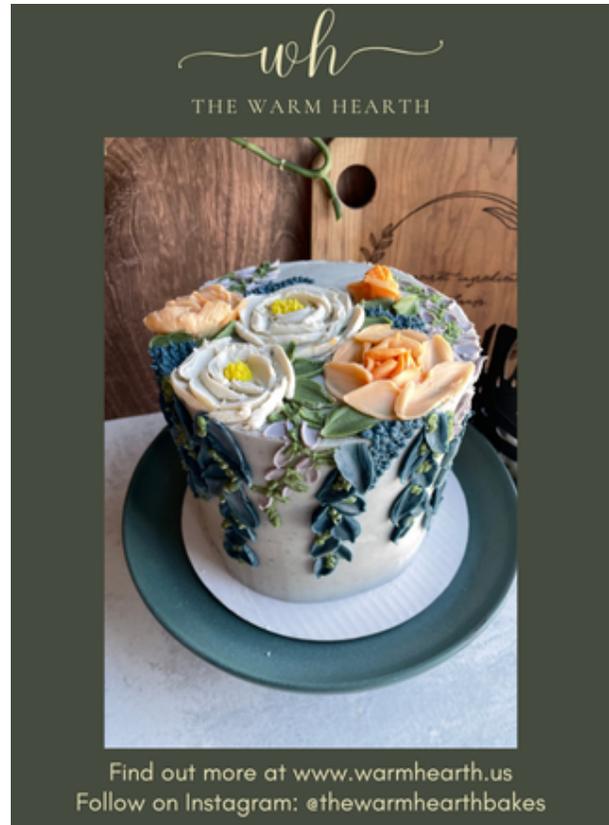


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 -Thornton Wilder**