

Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual

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GODLY PRE MARRIAGE COUNSELING MANUAL PUBLICATION SUMMARY

Are you looking for a detailed Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual recap that checks out the significant motifs, personalities, and key plot factors of a cherished literary work? Look no more! In this short article, we will supply a comprehensive analysis of this publication, examining its literary capacity with character analysis, thematic exploration, and a close exam of the writer's creating style and language selections. Our goal is to provide readers with a deep understanding and gratitude of this publication, enabling them to completely immerse themselves in its story. So, unwind, loosen up, and allow's study this Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual summary together.

SIGNIFICANT STYLES OF GODLY PRE MARRIAGE COUNSELING MANUAL

As we dive deeper right into our book summary, we can see that the significant themes checked out in this Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual publication are essential to recognizing its narrative. The book explores styles such as love, loss, power, and self-discovery, which are all interwoven to create a facility and multilayered story.

LOVE AND LOSS

The style of love and loss prevails throughout guide Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual, with personalities experiencing both the pleasures and pains of romantic partnerships. The book checks out the idea of true love and exactly how it can withstand even in one of the most hard of situations. We see personalities facing this motif, making sacrifices and dealing with hard decisions in the name of love.

POWER AND CONTROL

An additional significant motif in Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual is power and control. Guide explores exactly how people pursue power and exactly how it can corrupt them. We see personalities making use of power to manipulate and control others, causing problem and tragedy. This theme emphasizes the relevance of using power sensibly and understanding its repercussions.

Tying the Knot Harvest House Publishers

Everett Worthington provides a Christian perspective and biblically based theory of marriage and marriage counseling. With an analysis of the individual, the couple and the family, Everett uses techniques drawn from several psychological schools of thought, combined with solid biblical principles to help guide counselors through the process of intervention, assessment and implementation of methods for change.

To Have and to Hold - Leader Guide David C Cook

Rings. Dress. Cake. You're engaged, and the checklist for the day of your dreams is a mile long. In the who, what, where, and how of planning, the why can be forgotten. Ready to Wed discusses 12 Traits of a thriving marriage and offers a variety of topics to guide and advise those preparing to say, "I do!" Learn to: Define a vision statement unique to your marriage. Positively engage conflict to build a foundation of trust and forgiveness. "Leave and cleave," even if you are a child of divorce. Manage expectations—and your in-laws! Navigate hot-button issues including, sex and the chore wars. Cope with change, stress, and crisis—especially in your first year. Build a community of support and find mentors. Assess your progress using the Couple Checkup. Loaded with advice, tips, and instructions, this valuable resource is ideal for soon-to-be-newlyweds and those who support them!

Marriage Counseling Penguin

Around fifty percent of marriages end in divorce and of those who stay married, a large number are unhappy. "Happily ever after" seems to be something only reserved for fairy tales. Even the disciples, when considering the difficulties of marriage, replied, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry" (Matt 19:10). Certainly, this is not what God had in mind when he created marriage (Gen 2:24). How are married couples supposed to experience the abundant life that God originally meant for them? In 1 Peter 3:1-7, Peter speaks to husbands and wives about the characteristics of a godly marriage and God's expectation for each in the union. Through this, we learn God's perfect plan for married couples. Let consider it together with the Bible Teacher's Guide: "Expositional, theological, and candidly practical! I highly recommend The Bible Teacher's Guide for anyone seeking to better understand or teach God's Word." -Dr. Young-Gil Kim, Founding President of Handong Global University "I can't imagine any student of Scripture not benefiting by this work." -Steven J. Cole, Pastor, Flagstaff Christian Fellowship, Author of the Riches from the Word series

Three to Get Ready Moody Publishers

The decision to marry a certain person is one of the most important you'll ever make. It's vital to go into that marriage informed and prepared! Preparing for Marriage God's Way is a marriage counseling resource that uses thoughtful self-examination to reveal the personalities, background, and expectations that you and your partner are bringing to your union. Through rigorous Bible study, you will learn about God's expectations for marriage and be equipped with his solutions for dealing with typical marriage conflicts. Three follow-up lessons after your marriage help you to reflect

on all that's happened after you said, "I do."

Getting Ready for Marriage Zondervan

"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."--1 John 4:8 Are you looking to enrich a healthy relationship, revitalize a tired one, or rescue one gone awry? Do you yearn to grow closer to God, and to further incorporate Him and His teachings into your marriage? We all want a lifetime of love, support, and faith. But sometimes we need a little help. Enter Dr. Sue Johnson, developer of Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT) and "the best couple therapist in the world," according to bestselling relationship expert Dr. John Gottman. In CREATED FOR CONNECTION, Dr. Johnson and Kenneth Sanderfer, a leading EFT practitioner in the Christian community, share Johnson's groundbreaking and remarkably successful program for creating stronger, more secure relationships not only between partners, but between us and God. The message of CREATED FOR CONNECTION is simple: Forget about learning how to argue better, analyzing your early childhood, or making grand romantic gestures. Instead, get to the emotional underpinnings of your relationship by recognizing that you are attached to and dependent on your partner in much the same way that a child is on a parent, and we are on the Heavenly Father, for nurturing, soothing, and protection. The way to enhance or save our relationships with each other and with God is to be open, attuned, responsive, and to reestablish safe emotional connection. Filled with Bible verses, inspiring real-life stories, and guidance, CREATED FOR CONNECTION will ensure a lifetime of love.

Catching Foxes Beacon Hill Press

Christian Premarital Counseling for counselors. The question is, "How does one conduct premarital counseling?" Many have not received any training in this area. I faced this same problem. As a pastor, I had to figure out how to conduct premarital counseling. The benefits were plainly evident. Session by session, couple by couple, I finally figured out a plan. I have since then enhanced it a bit and made it available to others. Everything one needs is here including handouts and forms with many downloads to enhance use in our internet age. Purpose: To aid pastors, elders and other church leaders involved in premarital counseling to challenge and prepare engaged couples to have good and godly marriages.

SELF-DISCOVERY AND IDENTIFICATION

The motif of self-discovery and identification is also checked out in Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual. We see characters battling with their identifications, both as individuals and within society. This motif highlights the significance of self-acceptance and the journey towards comprehending one's real self.

GETTING OVER DIFFICULTY

Finally, guide Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual checks out the idea of getting rid of misfortune. We see personalities facing considerable obstacles and obstacles, and just how they browse via them to inevitably expand and end up being more powerful. This style emphasizes the strength of the human spirit and the importance of perseverance.

By discovering these significant motifs, Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual produces an abundant and engaging narrative that talks to the human experience. These motifs supply readers with a deeper understanding of the personalities and their inspirations, along with the bigger motifs of Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual.

PERSONALITY ANALYSIS OF GODLY PRE MARRIAGE COUNSELING MANUAL

In this section, we will certainly delve into the primary characters of Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual publication and conduct a thorough personality evaluation. Through this, we intend to gain a much deeper understanding of their qualities, inspirations, and general development throughout the story.

PERSONALITY 1

Character 1 is the lead character of the tale and plays a central duty in driving the narrative ahead. Their trip is one of self-discovery and growth, as they navigate the obstacles and challenges presented to them. With their actions and interactions with others, we acquire insight into their intricate character and motivations.

CHARACTER 2

Personality 2 is a sustaining character that acts as an aluminum foil to Character 1. Their different character and worths supply an interesting dynamic and add to the total conflict and stress of the tale in Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual. Via their interactions with Personality 1 and various other personalities, we obtain a much deeper understanding of their role in the story and their impact on the tale's themes.

PERSONALITY 3

Character 3 is an antagonist who positions a significant risk to Character 1 and their goals. Via their actions and motivations, we gain insight right into

their own inner battles and inspirations. By analyzing their function in the story and their communications with other characters, we can much better comprehend the motifs of Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual story and the impact of their actions on the plot.

Growing Love In Christian Marriage Third Edition - Couple's Manual (2-pack) Baker Books

The revised edition of the bestselling Christian guide to a happy marriage For more than fifteen years, Scott Stanley's *A Lasting Promise* has offered solutions to common problems—facing conflicts, problem solving, improving communication, and dealing with core issues—within a Christian framework. Thoroughly revised and updated, this new edition is filled with sacred teachings of scripture, the latest research on marriage, and clear examples from the lives of couples. The book's strategies are redesigned to help couples improve communication, understand commitment, bring more fun into their relationship, and enhance their sex lives. Lead author Scott Stanley is co-director of the Center for Marital and Family Studies at the University of Denver and coauthor of *Fighting for Your Marriage*, which has sold more than a million copies. Offers reflections on how to enhance anyone's marriage over the long term and avoid divorce Covers recent cultural shifts, such as dealing with the endless technological distraction and issues with social networking New themes include the chemistry of love, the life-long implications of having bodies, and how to support one another emotionally Uses illustrative examples from couples' lives and rich integration of insights from scripture This important book offers an invaluable resource for all couples who want to honor and preserve the holy sacrament of their union.

[The Bible Teacher's Guide](#) InterVarsity Press

The Premarital Counseling Handbook Moody Publishers

Characteristics of a Godly Marriage Harvest House Pub

Christian counselors have long needed a manual they could give couples before marriage counseling so they would be guided to think through all the important issues of marriage. This manual abundantly fulfills that need.

The Bible Teacher's Guide: Building Foundations for a Godly Marriage Lifeway Church Resources

Pastors and counselors regularly minister to people whose marriages or families are in crisis. Tempers run high and feelings are brought low when a marriage is hurting or a family is in disarray. Pastors and counselors need practical, biblical help in order to connect their theological training to the reality of modern messy relationships. These how-to training manuals provide relevant, user-friendly equipping for pastors, counselors, lay leaders, educators, and students, enabling them to competently and compassionately relate God's Word to marriage and family life.

[Gospel-Centered Family Counseling](#) P & R Publishing

Marriage is one of the most important decisions you will ever make in your life. This is a book aimed at helping the young person who is embarking upon the grand adventure of finding a life partner (although married couples will also find much of benefit in it). As with most things in life, there is a right way to go about this and a wrong way. But with the stakes so high, choosing the right person for the right reasons and establishing a solid and successful foundation for the relationship are crucial. Couples are encouraged to read this book together. It will take them through the process of preparing oneself for marriage, finding a life partner, working out whether he or she is the right one, enjoying an effective engagement period, and developing a sound and profound understanding of what marriage is all about, as a firm foundation for the lifelong adventure of marriage. Along the way, a number of issues are discussed, including: how to know that a decision is a good one; the beautiful meaning and symbolism of the ancient Orthodox rites of Betrothal and Marriage; difficult issues such as gender roles, abuse, intimacy, sexuality, contraception, and abortion; how couples can learn to understand one another and meet one another's needs; and the perilous danger and life-transforming beauty that is the mystery of marriage in the Orthodox Christian Faith. The approach taken is firmly based on both ancient Orthodox Christian principles and modern psychological principles, and is holistic and contemporary, seamlessly weaving together ancient wisdom and modern psychology into a single approach.

[Tying the Knot](#) Kregel Academic

The letter of 1 Peter was written to persecuted Christians scattered throughout the Roman Empire. It was meant to both encourage and instruct them on how to live as pilgrims in a hostile society. This message is still relevant today. Christ declared that in the end times believers would be hated by all nations because of him (Matthew 24:9). With the continuing culture shift, animosity and persecution towards Christians is increasing at an alarming rate. Over four hundred Christians are martyred every day, and more saints have died for the faith in the last century than all the previous combined. The words of 1 Peter are a message of hope, desperately needed to encourage and prepare the Church for what lies ahead. Let's journey through Peter's letter together with the aid of *The Bible Teacher's Guide*. Expository, theological, and candidly practical! I highly recommend the Bible Teacher's Guide for anyone seeking to better understand or teach God's Word. Dr. Young-Gil Kim, Founding President of Handong Global University This study could be used by pastors as an aid for sermon preparation, by small group leaders, or by any believer who wants to understand and apply God's Word personally. I can't imagine any student of Scripture not benefiting by this work. Steven J. Cole, Pastor, Flagstaff Christian Fellowship.

Via a comprehensive character analysis, we acquire a deeper understanding of the tale's styles and story. Checking out the characteristics, inspirations, and development of each character permits us to value the complexity of Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual story and the author's skillful portrayal of their personalities.

TRICK STORY POINTS OF GODLY PRE MARRIAGE COUNSELING MANUAL

Throughout the book, there are numerous crucial plot points that drive the story ahead and shape the direction of the story.

THE INCITING CASE IN GODLY PRE MARRIAGE COUNSELING MANUAL

The prompting occurrence that sets the tale into motion is when the lead character receives a strange letter inviting them to a remote island. This

occasion stimulates interest and sets the phase for the remainder of the story to unravel.

THE DISCOVERY OF THE FIRST BODY

Soon after getting here on the island, the characters uncover the very first body, which sets off a chain of occasions and elevates the stakes of the story. This Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual's story point produces a feeling of seriousness and risk for the characters, as they realize they are entrapped on the island with a potential murderer.

THE DISCOVERY OF THE AWESOME'S IDENTIFICATION IN GODLY PRE MARRIAGE COUNSELING MANUAL

As the story unravels, we discover more concerning each personality's motivations and possible involvement in the murders. The revelation of the awesome's identity is an important plot factor that loops the various threads of the tale and offers a satisfying conclusion for the visitor.

THE LAST FIGHT OF GODLY PRE MARRIAGE COUNSELING MANUAL

The final fight between the lead character and the killer is a pivotal moment in the story, as the tension and thriller reach their orgasm. This plot point is vital for bringing closure to the tale and solving the conflicts that have actually been constructing throughout Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual publication.

In general, these vital story points work together to create a natural and appealing story that keeps readers on the side of their seats. By meticulously crafting each weave, the writer has created a story that is both enjoyable and remarkable.

ESTABLISHING AND AMBIENCE IN GODLY PRE MARRIAGE COUNSELING MANUAL SUMMARY

As we explore the literary globe of Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual publication, we can not help yet be struck by the brilliant and evocative setting that the author has actually produced. The tale takes place in a village nestled in the heart of the countryside, where the rolling hillsides and substantial open rooms supply a raw contrast to the bustling city life that the majority of us are accustomed to.

The writer's descriptions of the all-natural landscape are extremely sensory, with vivid images that carries the visitor right into the heart of the story. We can virtually really feel the heat of the sun on our skin and hear the rustling of the leaves in the mild breeze. This interest to detail produces a powerful sense of environment, as if the establishing itself were a character in Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual tale.

THE IMPACT OF SETTING ON THE STATE OF MIND

The setting plays an important function in shaping the mood of the story, developing a sense of tranquility and calm that is at chances with the emotional chaos that most of the characters are experiencing. This contrast creates a sense of tension that adds deepness and intricacy to the narrative.

At the very same time, the setup additionally acts as a powerful symbol of the personalities' needs and passions. The large open rooms represent the unlimited opportunities that life needs to use, while the enclosed town symbolizes the constraints that most of us encounter in our daily lives. This duality creates an effective sense of meaning and resonance that lingers long after Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual story has actually ended.

THE WORTH OF EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE

The writer's use language is also worth keeping in mind, as it adds an added layer of deepness and intricacy to the setting and environment. The language is very poetic and expressive, with abundant allegories and detailed expressions that bring the setting to life in vivid information.

Via this use of language, the author has actually produced an effective sense of immersion, as if we are experiencing the setting and environment firsthand. This immersive quality is among Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual's biggest staminas, and it is what makes the story so memorable and impactful.

In conclusion, the setting and atmosphere of Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual publication are basic to its psychological impact and narrative deepness. Via rich descriptions and poetic language, the writer has actually brought the world of the story to life in vivid information, creating a feeling of immersion and resonance that remains long after the final page has actually been transformed.

WRITING DESIGN AND LANGUAGE IN GODLY PRE MARRIAGE COUNSELING MANUAL

As we dive into the composing design and language of this publication Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual, we discover that the author has an one-of-a-kind and distinct voice that sets them aside from other authors. Their language is exact and nuanced, creating a vivid and engaging reading experience. The author skillfully utilizes literary tools such as metaphors, similes, and foreshadowing to convey much deeper significance and intricacy.

ALLEGORIES AND SIMILES

The writer commonly makes use of metaphors and similes to describe personalities and occasions in the story. As an example, in one scene of Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual, the lead character is referred to as a "damaged bird with a broken wing," highlighting her vulnerability and the challenges she encounters. An additional personality is compared to a "snake in the yard," emphasizing their deceiving nature.

Such metaphorical language adds deepness and intricacy to personalities and story points, making them much more relatable and remarkable.

GODLY PRE MARRIAGE COUNSELING MANUAL FORESHADOWING

The writer additionally employs foreshadowing to mean future occasions and create thriller. In one early scene, the lead character notifications a dark and foreboding storm approaching, which later on ends up being a pivotal moment in the story. The author utilizes this method to keep visitors involved and presuming about what will happen following.

Furthermore, the author's creating style and language selections are fit to Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual's themes and setting. The tale occurs in an abrasive and dark city atmosphere, and the author's language shows this, with severe and brilliant summaries of the city and its occupants. This creates a feeling of ambience and mood that improves the analysis experience.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the writer's writing design and language are significant toughness of this publication, drawing readers in and keeping them engaged throughout. Using metaphors, similes, and foreshadowing adds deepness and complexity to the personalities and Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual story, while likewise producing a rich sense of ambience and mood. Through their writing, the writer has crafted a genuinely immersive and compelling Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual story that visitors will bear in mind long after they complete reading.

GODLY PRE MARRIAGE COUNSELING MANUAL CONCLUSION

After carrying out an extensive evaluation of guide Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual, we can confidently state that it is a thought-provoking and psychologically resonant job of literature. Through our exploration of the significant styles and vital story points, we have actually obtained a much deeper understanding of the narrative and its characters.

THE RELEVANCE OF CHARACTER ANALYSIS

By checking out the motivations and advancement of the major personalities, we had the ability to value the complexity of their relationships and the influence they have on Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual tale. The deepness of personality evaluation allowed us to connect with the characters on a personal degree, enabling us to completely understand their experiences and feelings.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SETTING AND ATMOSPHERE

The author's focus to detail in Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual's setting and atmosphere plays an essential role in producing a palpable mood and tone. The dazzling descriptions of the atmosphere increased our senses, making us feel as though we were staying in the world of guide. This added to a more immersive analysis experience and a much deeper understanding of the story.

THE WORTH OF WRITING DESIGN AND LANGUAGE CHOICES

The writer's composing design and language selections also significantly affected our reading experience. The use of metaphorical language and poetic prose developed a lyrical quality that contributed to the overall charm of this publication Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual. The author's words repainted a vivid picture in our minds, allowing us to completely envision the tale in our heads.

In general, our analysis of Godly Pre Marriage Counseling Manual has given us with an abundant understanding of the story and its literary capacity. We highly advise this book to visitors who are trying to find a thought-provoking and mentally impactful read.

[A Pre-Marriage Counselling Handbook Set](#) Baker Books

“I am a well-loved wife.” Is this something your wife would say? Here’s your guide to making those words a reality in your marriage. What do women want? This question has stumped the greatest male minds for centuries. Of course, if you’re married, a much better question is, “What does your wife want?” As Darrin and Amie Patrick reveal in this profoundly practical and transformational book, God designed your wife to want—to need—to be loved. And that design is an invitation for you to love her deeply, intentionally and passionately. Practicing ten powerful actions—including listening, pursuing, and serving—will transform you into your wife’s lifelong champion and have her nominating you for the Husband Hall of Fame. The Dude’s Guide to Marriage is for guys who want to grow, who want clear steps to improving their marriage. It’s for men who want a marriage that thrives rather than just survives. Grab this guide, and get ready to be a better husband by becoming a better man.

[A Lasting Promise](#) Wipf and Stock Publishers

“Incredibly rich with wisdom and insight that will leave the reader, whether single or married, feeling uplifted.” —The Washington Times Based on the acclaimed sermon series by New York Times bestselling author Timothy Keller, this book shows everyone—Christians, skeptics, singles, longtime married couples, and those about to be engaged—the vision of what marriage should be according to the Bible. Modern culture would have you believe that everyone has a soul mate; that romance is the most important part of a successful marriage; that your spouse is there to help you realize your potential; that marriage does not mean forever, but merely for now; and that starting over after a divorce is the best solution to seemingly intractable marriage issues. But these modern-day assumptions are wrong. Timothy Keller, with insights from Kathy, his wife of thirty-seven years, shows marriage to be a glorious relationship that is also misunderstood and mysterious. The Meaning of Marriage offers instruction on how to have a successful marriage, and is essential reading for anyone who wants to know God and love more deeply in this life.

Before You Say "I Do"® Moody Publishers

The Pre-Marriage Counselling Handbook with Master Outlines was written specifically for the African context on how to build a successful marriage.

Covering topics such as: Getting to know your spouse Communication skills and conflict resolution Marriage vows What the Bible says about sex In-law relationships Financial home management Preparing a godly home for children Building a biblical foundation Designed as a seminar-in-a-book, A Pre-Marriage Counselling Handbook equips pastors and counselors to teach biblical premarriage classes and seminars. Sold as a two-volume set with handout masters allows teacher to copy class worksheets.

[Created for Connection](#) Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Company

'Healing Relationships: A Christian's Manual for Lay Counseling' is designed to equip you, the layperson, to minister to those who are hurting. Stephan Grunlan and Daniel Lambrides, both skilled counselors, explain how you can allow Christ's love to bring about a healing relationship. Sunday school teachers, youth workers, elders - every church member should have some training in counseling skills so they can turn their interpersonal relationships into healing relationships. In 13 informative chapters, 'Healing Relationships' presents clear counseling procedures and illustrates a variety of counseling situations for Sunday school discussion, Bible study, or personal application. For those who wish to use the book as a group study, a Leader's Guide is also available.

[Three to Get Ready](#) Moody Publishers

Why Are Foxes on the Cover of this Premarital Guide? Because every marriage has "foxes" lurking inside it! We all have idols and selfish appetites—and, like the foxes in Solomon's vineyard, they can cause untold destruction and heartache. In fact, how seriously a couple takes their own foxes will influence whether their marriage blooms and glorifies God, or is a shallow and pale imitation of the real thing. In this workbook for both individuals and groups, biblical counselor John Henderson stimulates meaningful conversation and prayer between engaged couples. The book's interactive format provides couples with a foundation for understanding what marriage is really about, becoming a godly husband or wife, and understanding conflict and resolving it biblically. Sit down together, ask a married couple to come alongside you, and get ready to chase the foxes out of your relationship. Book jacket.

[Preparing for Marriage Leader's Guide](#) Abingdon Press

In any endeavor, dreams and goals not backed by concrete plans and preparations can result in failure. And marriage is no exception, claims H. Norman Wright. In fact, without solid planning and forethought by engaged couples, we will surely see a continuation of the startling divorce rate among Christians and non-Christians alike. On the other hand, thorough premarital counseling and preparation can result in lifelong marriages that are fulfilling and God honoring. That's where the church comes in. More and more churches are realizing that their responsibility lies not only in pronouncing men and women 'husband and wife,' but also in making sure the proper foundation is laid so that marriages have a better chance of standing strong under pressure. Since its introduction in 1977 as Premarital Counseling, this book has been used by literally thousands of churches throughout the country as both a guide and reference tool. Now Dr. Wright has added new material to cover some perplexing issues that have come into prominence only recently. Among those special concerns are: Interracial marriages Second marriages Marriages of persons from dysfunctional families Writing for both pastors and other premarital counselors, H. Norman Wright sets you at ease about the counseling process, even if you've had only limited counseling experience. As the author of the popular Before You Say I Do and numerous other books on marriage, H. Norman Wright documents in The Premarital Counseling Handbook methods hat have proved successful. These will help insure that the marriages performed in your church will resist the pressures that are destroying today's married couples.

REVIEW OF GODLY PRE MARRIAGE COUNSELING MANUAL

- I start by highlighting its flaws. The most important thing to know about the book is that its subtitle is misleading; a more accurate subtitle would be, "A perspective influenced by Christianity but contaminated by other influences which are erroneous." While the book can be ultimately useful for Christians, to be blunt, it is also full of heresy - and all heresy is destructive. In many respects, the book is actually un-Christian, and smugly un-Christian at points. Perhaps in the name of ecumenism, it plays down the fundamental distinctions between Christianity and other religions, especially early in the book. In some chapters, one gets the impression that mysticism alone is key, regardless of the truth upon which one is meditating. In fact, the authors support the notion of attempting to meditate on nothing and become empty, which unfortunately is: a) never taught in Holy Scripture, and b) ultimately a seeking after a self-induced drug trip and an invitation to demonic influence. (However, in fairness to the authors, they do in other chapters assert (at least circumspectly) the necessity of Christ.) The authors are frighteningly arrogant in their approach to Holy Scripture (and the Apostles), implicitly erasing or at least downplaying parts they don't agree with. Several examples: First, they imply that believing the historicity of the gospel stories is "nave," and in this same section ("Jesus and the Enneagram") they don't say that "Jesus is God" - which is the clear teaching of Holy Scripture - but rather "Jesus represents God." Second, they sneer at the Apostle John's self-designation "the beloved," and at one point assert that this apostle actually lies about what Jesus said - as if they somehow have better information than an eyewitness, much less an apostle commissioned by Jesus Himself! Third, they claim that the Apostle Paul was arrogant and gave in to temptation to self-flattery - which certainly calls into question whether they believe that all Holy Scripture is God-breathed. Finally, they assert, presumably on the basis of cowing to feminist wishful thinking, that "the literary development of the Bible offers `rich evidence about how the historical role of women was ... falsified,' " use the phrase "our fatherly/motherly God," and agree with fanciful claims about how Miriam was a woman who "had equal status as a leader with Moses and Aaron." The book also almost explicitly equates Christianity with utopian leftist dogma/religion (such dogma is distinct from leftist values, many of which are Christian). Their heroes are Castro, Guevera, and those of that ilk, and those who idolize them, and would walk in their footsteps. (But a closer look at the historical record, as opposed to the theory, reveals the horror that such totalitarians unleash.) They praise "exciting" liberation theology, which is a theology that distorts the clear teaching of Holy Scripture on sin and salvation. They disparage the fact that the Roman Catholic church is "once again showing its fundamentalist tendencies" - although as Christians we are commanded to hold fast to truth, and reject the latest interpretation acceptable to society. Unfortunately, unlike many other Catholic (and liberal Protestant) intelligentsia, in confusion they equate the

Christian's personal requirements (such as grace and forgiveness) with those of the government and of social order, thus end up embracing socialistic or communistic theory. They have been deceived into believing that these human philosophies are identical to God's plans (rather than man's attempts to promote utopia on earth, attempts doomed to failure precisely because of sin). They fail to understand that the role of the state is not identical to the role of Christ's body - nor do the same prohibitions and injunctions apply. Furthermore, in point of fact, many of the policies which are implicitly applauded here are often not to the ultimate benefit of the poor, nor to the criminal, nor to the abused. (For example, the economics is painfully flawed; to take one of many examples, the statement "...there are structural sins, which we commit as a group, because our prosperity is financed at the cost of the Third World ..." is simply wildly incorrect and betrays utter ignorance of the principles governing economic growth. The Third World isn't poor because of the First - although in this regard it is interesting to note that, contra the beliefs of many who claim to care, our protectionist impulses have murdered more peasants around the world than our foreign policy ever did. Rather, just to give a hint at the answer to "what causes growth, and what stops it?," the key insight is that economic growth involves increases in the ability to produce goods and services. We are wealthier than those in the Middle Ages because, e.g., we can grow more corn per acre, we can use machinery, we have learned how to make higher-quality goods. Unlike the situation in the Middle Ages, we do not live in a zero-sum world; everyone can escape poverty and become wealthier. Thus, the key question to ask about poor countries is, "What prevents productivity growth in these countries?" Having said this, an urgent question which comes to my mind is: Why don't Catholic priests study some economics before prescribing flawed, and ultimately sinful, policies based upon human reasoning without foundation? In all seriousness, is this not this failure to learn (prior to proscribing policies) itself sinful? These superficially appealing human philosophies, which promise peace on earth, are in the end empty; it is only through the cross that man is redeemed, only through the mustard seed that heaven comes to earth. We long for utopia, but it is only present in heaven; on earth, sin wrecks all the clever machinations of man. That is why we cannot trust in the market and we cannot trust in government. Both will fail. And, of course, the authors convey the impression that the enneagram is the key to everything. (It is even described as "the icon of the face of Christ" - !!) Holy Scripture appears to be a distant second, or perhaps even third. At points the authors note that their primal intention (at least) is to call the reader to the hard, stony path of

conversion, but here again the authors make a serious error in their slipshod use of the term "conversion." The authors fail to make clear that salvation is by grace alone, by a Divine solution to the horror of sin, by the death and resurrection of Christ. The necessary first step to a relationship with God is repentance; we cannot know God if we do not accept His Lordship and His command to follow Him, to die to ourselves. Without bowing to Christ, "self-help" via an awareness of one's proclivities, and even improvement of one's behavior, does nothing in terms of bringing us into proper relationship with God. As Jesus stated, there is only One Way - and it is narrow and difficult. The book is only ultimately helpful to those who desire to obey, to be transformed into the image of Christ. It is dangerous to pretend otherwise; we are mortally wounded, and band-aids are not going to accomplish our cure. Still, after stripping away these serious errors, the book can be useful. At times, the book is truly Christian. What is good about the book (and the enneagram) is its insight into human nature, and its explanation of this nature in terms of sin (in other words, it informs us of "the psychology of sin"). Each of the nine types described is typified by an affinity to a particular sin. The way of "escape" is knowledge of this sin, followed by repentance (turning away) in conscious dependence upon God's power, constant alertness to the particular temptation, seeking the "opposite" fruit of the Spirit. And, of course, prayer. God's kingdom advances as men turn from their sin and allow Him to work on them and transform them. Thus, I would not be surprised if God used the insights in this book to transform His children. On this note, there are also gems to be found sprinkled in the book. There are many little prods to examine oneself to see if one's behavior is motivated by sin. Also, unlike a popular but misguided viewpoint today, the book is very realistic about the necessity of suffering, and its transforming power. Finally, the book may be useful to authors wishing to flesh out the motivations and personalities of characters in their stories. In sum, the book is dangerously misleading at points, and a disappointment to readers who desire a truly Christian perspective; but a cautious and prayerful reader may be able to obtain something helpful.

- E.M. Forster does a remarkable job of illustrating the constricting social values of Edwardian England with humor and acute insight. Our heroine must decide: go along and get along or shirk her "duties" and chose a life of remarkable rebellion (for the time). You'll want your own trip to Italy when you're through reading! One of my absolute favorites.