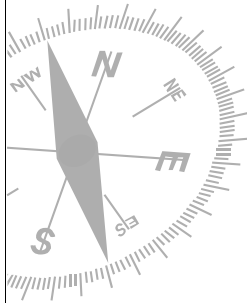


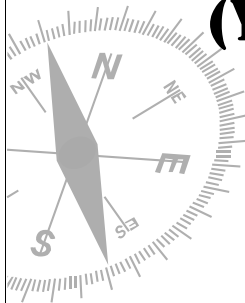
RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

(AND MATRIMONY)



RULE # 1

SPEAK UP, MAN! (YOU, TOO...MADAM.)



With this slide I talk about how adultery starts: officers, especially male officers have that “warrior/protector” mentality so they come home at the end of a horrific shift which was full gore and mayhem and the wife says, “How was your day, dear.” In a “noble” attempt to “protect” her from the junk – he says “Fine.” That continues and as you know the officer MUST talk about it, so he goes to “choir practice,” and one late evening he’s talking to the boys about some harrowing tale and a pretty young thing slides up next to him and says “Ohh – that’s fascinating!” The officer thinks to himself, “You mean this little cutie is actually interested in what I have to say...MY WIFE NEVER LISTENS TO ME.” What a cruel twist – next thing you know they are in the sack.

That process was beginning to happen to me – thank God it didn’t get that far before my wife told me how the cow ate the corn. I sought counsel from a pastor who asked me a profound question that changed my marriage forever – he said “God made Eve out of one of Adam’s ribs, right? What’s the primary purpose of the rib cage? TO PROTECT THE HEART!” He helped me understand that my wife had been created perfectly to protect my heart – so when I came home, rather than keep the junk off of her – I should be giving I to her as she has been supernaturally equipped to take it from me without harming her! Wow.

I talk about sharing plans and schedules – no secrets from each other. My wife ALWAYS knows where I am – and I know where she is. Now, I don’t require that of her – and she doesn’t require it of me – but in order to keep the lines of communication between us as open as possible – we jointly agree to keep each other posted as to our whereabouts.

RULE # 1

SHHH...

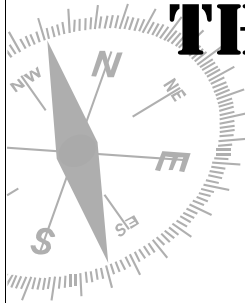
BE VEWY, VEWY QUIET.



Woman has 25,000 words she needs to speak in a day – men between 3,000 and 12,000 – by the time men get home, they're done, but wife has 20,000 left to go!
Need to be quiet and listen attentively...and actively.

RULE # 1

**BETTER TO HAVE PEACE,
THAN TO BE RIGHT.**



This fits nicely with teaching about police personality on the street versus at home – we cannot be the control freak at home that we must be on the street.

RULE # 1

BEFORE ALL ELSE FAILS...

ASK FOR FORGIVENESS.

(EVEN WHEN YOU'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG.)



And don't say..."Even though it's really not my fault...please forgive me!" Just be humble and say "Honey I love you and I have obviously hurt you. Please forgive me." There's incredible power in forgiveness.


RULE # 1

WHEN ASKED FOR FORGIVENESS... FORGIVE.



(EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE IT.)

Did you know that forgiveness has nothing to do with emotions or feelings? It doesn't – it is an act of the will. In the Bible, it is a financial term having to do with canceling a debt. So to forgive someone who's hurt you does not mean you think it was okay what they did – or that it was not wrong or did not hurt. It simply means you choose to set them free from the debt (and it turns out that you are the one who's really set free!)



RULE # 1

**NEVER DO OR SAY
ANYTHING IN YOUR
SPOUSE'S ABSENCE, THAT
YOU COULDN'T DO OR SAY
RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEIR
FACE.**

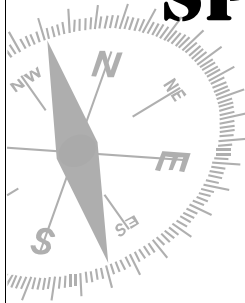
I tell a story of fellow officers dancing with other women on a trip to a training conference – they couldn't understand why I wouldn't dance – I asked them if they would be dancing with these women if their wives were with them...can you guess what they said? "They're NOT here...and what they don't know won't hurt them."

I don't tell jokes that I wouldn't tell to my wife and kids...I don't listen to stories I wouldn't want them to hear...I don't watch things I wouldn't want them to watch or see.

I'm not "holier than thou." But I just might be "smarter than thou." ☺

RULE # 1

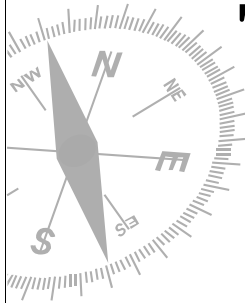
NEVER SPEAK ILL OF YOUR SPOUSE TO ANOTHER HUMAN BEING.



You'll never hear "my old lady" or "my old man" jokes or comments from me or Patti...in fact, Patti and I have an agreement that we never even jokingly complain to other people about each others aggravating little habits...unless we sort of get "prior permission." Patti has friends who's counsel we both trust...and so do I. And occasionally it's helpful and healthy to get their input regarding some issue Patti and I might be dealing with – but we never consult them without each other's knowledge...and again – it's not a matter of controlling each other – it's a matter of honoring each other – make sense?

RULE # 1

**SEE NO EVIL,
THINK NO EVIL,
DO NO EVIL.**



Men are wired to be visually stimulated whether we are talking about an attractive woman or a piece of chocolate pie...can't control that, but can control eyes – it's NOT ok to look!

Guys – if you don't believe that...ASK YOUR WIFE!!! 😊

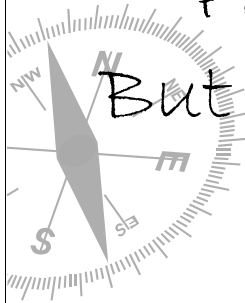
RULE # 1

PEOPLE IN PAIN...BITE.

"Pain is inevitable...

But misery is optional."

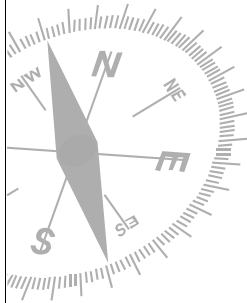
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Anger is not a primary emotion – but pain is.

RULE # 1

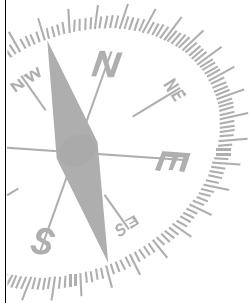
DON'T BLAME THE SANDPAPER.



I've heard guys say something like, "Boy, when my wife does such and such it really irritates me!" And so I have to tell them "Hey, don't blame the sandpaper. You're spouse is the sandpaper – you're the one with the rough spots."

RULE # 1

KISS YOURSELF GOODBYE.



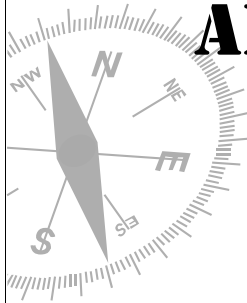
Tell golf= mistress story...pastor said I loved golf more than Patti because that's where I spent my "free" time...I used to play golf 5 times per week – then I couldn't understand why my wife said I didn't love her!!

Once I learned to die to my wants and ambitions – I became more fulfilled than ever before. Plus – now I get to play golf on the job – guilt free!!!! ☺

People say marriage is a 50%-50% relationship – that's wrong. It's 100%-100% - each needing to give their all to make a new whole (the two become one flesh).

RULE # 1

**KNOW THYSELF...
AND EACH OTHER.**



Five Love Languages by Dr. Gary Chapman

I talk about this book, and also about knowing your personality type and that of your spouse.

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