

“HOW TO INVEST IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP FUTURE” - by Andrew Olsen, as Part 2 after talk on “HOW TO PREDICT YOUR RELATIONSHIP FUTURE” at South Perth Church of Christ, 18 Sept. 2005.

= staggered arrival of text on screen (all instant, not slide in).
\$ = new screen.

Recap of Part 1 – Gottman’s research.
Broadband Download of Original Powerpoint

So that talk scared people! 94%! 67%!
The alternative is worse!
So people wanted Part 2, the good news!
So, by popular demand,
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the HOW TO of Relationships!

Here it is: The How To:

1. Be persistently kind.
2. Be devotedly faithful.
3. Don’t ever be mean.

#

Right? True? You already knew that.

Weren’t you hoping for something better, or easier, or cleverer?

Share your unsatisfied feeling with person near you. 30 sec each.

#

What does this show you about you? 30 sec each.

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You don’t do these 3.

You can’t do these 3.

Even if you did, they might divorce you!

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Larry Crabb’s publisher advised:

3 x \$Sales if your title has “How To”.

“How To” taps into our delusionary fantasy:

“I can make life work.”

‘How To’ is a symptom of the disease!

What a deception.

I can’t even make my car work!

Relationships are ≡ more complicated!

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Here’s a nice ‘How To Invest in your R. F.’ story:

My wife invested, prayed, kept pure,
brought commitment, did the How To:

1. Be persistently kind.
2. Be devotedly faithful.
3. Never be mean.

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Jeckle → Hyde on Wedding Night,

Endless deceptions,

Persecuted for 2 years,

Ultimatum delivered in 1 week!

Found out later he was millionaire, not pauper!

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She had no dominion over his soul!

No ‘How To’ worked the trick!

It takes two to Tango...

but it only takes one to kill. Or divorce.

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But my wife has dominion over her own soul!

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She has same problem with me!

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I will NEVER fully accept it,

but I cannot ‘fix’ or ‘solve’ my Nature,
nor yours.

Since the Fall, everything cracks & frays.

Since the Fall, every cup is broken.

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BUT I WILL TRY!!!

My reasoning will change you!

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My good example will change you!

#

My chastisement will change you!

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My outburst will change you!

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My nagging or whining will change you!

#

My dry sarcasm and little digs will change you!

#

My punishments will change you!

#

My repentance will change you!

#

My breakdown will change you!

#

My threats will change you!

#

I CAN MAKE THIS RELATIONSHIP WORK!

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How to Invest?

Discover your own ‘How To’ mentality,

my obsession with Power & Control,

our endless attempts to get our partner to conform.

Stop thinking that either of you will avoid this!

Stop thinking this is not already corroding you!

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Lovers fight because their love is the 2nd biggest deal.
2nd to competition for dominance and righteousness.

That’s why we will fight even our beloved soulmate!

Sin, blame & guilt runs much deeper than love or lust.

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Human Nature = Human Beings *need* to hate.

We need to have someone else to look down upon –

somebody who will be an enemy to hate, vilify,

denigrate, demean, dismiss, and dispel.

We need ‘Us & Them’.

#

'Us & Them'.

I feel together, focused, directed,
if in my mind I can demean and dismiss
and debunk and dethrone somebody else.

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I'm up if they're down,
I'm good if they're bad,
I'm together if they're wrong,
I'm saved if they're going to Hell.

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We need 'Us & Them'.

This is not just a theory of some bleak academic.
This is thousands of research studies!

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Primate Social Mapping – eg., Karen Stevenson.

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Positive Illusions – eg., Shelley Taylor.

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Negative Attributions – eg., John Gottman.

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Moral Perceptions – eg., David Dunning.

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Social Perceptions – eg., William Klein.

#

Check your last conversation too!

Always a scapegoat.

Check your media consumption!

Sex & Murder & Us & Them.

Check your last fight!

Always the other person's worse guilt.

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Every argument we ever had –
every time we ever 'stood up for ourself' –
was a legal claim presenting me
as more righteous than you.

By nature, we would rather die or divorce
than admit "I was wronger than you."

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If you can't find this muck alive & well in you,
you are in dire straights,
because your spouse will end up
married to a self-righteous person,
blind to the virus that infects
every earthly relationship.

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So

Q. How do I invest in my relationship future?

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A. Face my own delusion fantasy
that I can find the 'How to' with a relationship –
that I am the one who can 'make it work';
that I can do something to make you work;
that we can ever make it without a miracle of grace.

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A. Face the fact
that I will cleverly & cruelly pressure my partner
to conform to my dreams, and v.v.,

and that this competition between lovers (?!)
is the cancerous marital reality since the Fall!

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A. Come to terms with suffering and evil,
the inevitability of both tsunamis and terrorists
in the world and in your relationship,
alive and well in me and in you.

Since the Fall, you won't find a 'How To'.

Every cup is broken.

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This won't make your relationship work!

It might help, but it might not.

But it might just make you

able to forget trying to make your relationship work
and start working on yourself in the relationship.

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Another way of saying all this:

The greatest investments in your relationships,

& the greatest favours you can give your spouse are

1. be broken by the fallenness of your partner and your
self.

'Repentance' = the most important quality in spouse,
marriage.

Jesus' most repeated teaching: "Try to save your life =
lose."

#

2. ask others to study your relationships, style of relating.
Get caught. Eg., we all think we're good listeners!

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3. Girls: never lower your standards.

Guys: re-murder your inner adolescent half-hourly.

Both: never never never use anger.

(Except for others).

(Anger for your sake is God's job.)

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As my punchline, please enjoy Nathan's interpretation
of a difficult, wonderful song by David Wilcox.

Break In The Cup

By David Wilcox

.....

I try so hard to please you

To be the love that fills you up

I try to pour on sweet affection,

But I think you got a broken cup.

Because you can't believe I love you

I try to tell you that there is no doubt,

But as soon as I fill you with all I've got

That little break will let it run right out.

I cannot make you happy.

I'm learning love and money never do

But I can pour myself out 'til I'm empty

Trying to be just who you'd want me to.

But I cannot make you happy

Even though our love is true

For there's a break in the cup that holds love

Inside of you.

Now I begin to understand you
As you explain this fear you feel.
It's when you see me fall into that sorrow
it makes you doubt the love is real.
'Cause the lonely wind still blows through me
I turn away so can't see
But now how could I still be so empty
With all the love that you pour on me.
I guess you cannot make me happy
That's a money back guarantee.
But you can pour yourself out 'til you're empty
Trying to be just who I'd want you to be.
You cannot make me happy
It's just the law of gravity
And that break in the cup that holds love,
Inside of me.

So if you're tempted to rescue me
Drowning in this quicksand up to my neck
Before you grab my hand to save me
Why don't you ask me if I'm finished yet.
Because you cannot make me happy
Not when I'm empty inside of me
But you can pull yourself right in here with me
My misery'd love to have your company.
We cannot trade empty for empty
We must go to the waterfall
For there's a break in the cup that holds love,
A break in the cup that holds love,
A break in the cup that holds love,
Inside us all. Inside us all.

This talk & notes on sundayatseven.com