



Doctrine of Love: Category 2: Romantic: Compatibility Stage: Soul Adjustment; Rapport Stage: Soul Harmony

Compatibility has its strength in virtue love in three categories: (1) personal love for God, (2) unconditional love for others, and (3) occupation with Christ. These are advanced problem-solving devices that enable the couple to adjust to each other's idiosyncrasies without them damaging their relationship. Rather than small failings being a distraction they are either considered endearing or graciously tolerated.

Compatibility is a mental attitude enjoyed by both the man and the woman. It produces a total adjustment to the other person. They accept the other as they are. Whatever the weaknesses, sins, and failures of the man happen to be they do not cause the woman's love for him to be negatively affected. She loves him just as he is no matter what. The same goes for the man toward her.

It is with both tolerance and understanding that the two can come together and contemplate marriage. Having dealt with all possible problems and distractions they concentrate on each other's positive attributes and begin to build a life based on the mutual strengths within their souls.

The danger that is associated with arrival at the compatibility stage is the assumption that since you have identified each other as your right person there is the tendency to rationalize that it is all right to engage in physical sex.

Even though you have discovered that you are God's gift to each other, the mandates prohibiting premarital sex become even more important to observe. You can destroy God's gracious gift by ignoring His regulations. To do so puts soul rapport in jeopardy.

Once you have come to the realization you are right man and right woman you should concentrate on maximizing your spiritual growth right up to the wedding day and beyond with the objective of attaining soul rapport as soon as possible.

Rapport is a state of soul harmony, accord, and affinity in either romance or marriage.

Rapport is defined by the *Oxford English Dictionary* as "a state in which irresistible action can be exercised by one person on another." "The conformity that exists between the male and the female."

The New Oxford American Dictionary defines it as "a close and harmonious relationship in which the people concerned understand each other's feelings or ideas and communicate well."

This is a union of attitudes about and toward each other. It doesn't mean that you think like each other as if automatons. You are different from each other in many ways, first of all one is male the other female. But this union of attitudes enjoys and celebrates these differences.

When the woman is upset the man provides sympathy and comfort. He may not understand why she is crying at the Chick Flick but he has learned that is a good kind of crying and he's all right with that.

She is not upset with his views toward things she doesn't care for. He enjoys shooting deer with guns she prefers to shoot them with cameras.

The man and the woman are opposites in so many ways but these differences do not hinder their relationship but further it. They inspire aggressive love from the man and engender responding love from the woman.

Soul rapport enables the two to cooperate in the structure of an harmonious relationship within the home. The man seeks to provide and care for the woman and she desires to please him by responding to his efforts.



This is a type of love that is unique to the right man-right woman relationship. It motivates enduring loyalty from the husband and elicits honor, esteem, and deference from the wife.

They function as a team that functions as a corporation designed to achieve a destination and a goal: to demonstrate to the world the harmony that exists between Jesus Christ and His church as is mandated in:

Ephesians 5:22 - Wives, be subordinating yourselves to your own husbands as you would subordinate yourselves to the Lord.

v. 25 - Husbands, love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself as a substitute for her.

The post-salvation relationship of Christ to the church is accomplished by doctrinal instruction through the mentorship of the Holy Spirit. Thus the husband is to teach doctrine to his wife and corporate policy is always developed from that doctrine. As the husband grows in grace he instructs his wife accordingly and where pertinent this information leads to the development or alteration of household policies.

The wife is to have a teachable disposition that is defined by humility and objectivity. As she submits to the mandates of Scripture as a student without portfolio then she also submits to her husband's leadership in the application of his biblically developed policies in the home.

In these ways the husband makes decisions that reflect his undiminished and undying love for his wife as he endeavors to provide the best possible environment for her to live and prosper. She in turn responds to him with respect and deference. This comes from an understanding that his leadership is delegated to him by the Lord and that his responsibility is to set up standards for the household that reflect his submission to senior-ranking Authority.

As one who loves the Lord she is willing to receive guidance and direction from her husband who is accountable before the Lord for the decisions that are made within the home.

Marriage is the foundation of a stable and honorable society and its success is contingent upon the willingness of the husband to establish policies that are compatible with divine guidance and the wife's duty is to carry these out with the same respect and deference as if they come directly to her from the Lord.