

**Genesis 2:18- “The LORD
God said, “It is not good for
the man to be alone. I will
make a helper suitable for
him.”**

- Genesis 2:21-24 - 21 - *So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, He took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 - Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man. 23 - The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."*24 - *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh*

- ***"It is not good for man to be alone."***
(Genesis 2:18)
- ***"helper."***
- Genesis 2:18 – ***"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."*** KJV
- ***HELPER*** – *'azar* - **HELP ; PARTNER, PROTECTOR, DEFENDER, ALLY, BODYGUARD**

Psalm 46:1 - *"God is our refuge and strength an ever-present HELP in time of trouble."*

COMMITMENT for the LONG HAUL.

- ROMANCE stage.



- Song of Solomon 4:1-4- *How beautiful you are, my darling, How beautiful you are! Your eyes are like doves behind your veil; Your hair is like a flock of goats That have descended from Mount Gilead. 2 "Your teeth are like a flock of newly shorn ewes Which have come up from their washing, All of which bear twins, And not one among them has lost her young. 3 "Your lips are like a scarlet thread, And your mouth is lovely. Your temples are like a slice of a pomegranate Behind your veil. 4 "Your neck is like the tower of David, Built with rows of stones On which are hung a thousand shields, All the round shields of the mighty men. NASU"*

INDULGENCE

giving IN and giving UP

IGNORANCE

A person wearing a black suit and a black gas mask with a green filter. The background is a stylized landscape with green hills and a white foreground. The text "GOOD MORNING." is overlaid in white on the green hills.

GOOD MORNING.





Morning breath...



the REALITY Stage

- Proverbs 27:15-16 - *"A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a rainy day. Restraining her is like restraining the wind or grasping oil with the hand."*
- Proverbs 21:9 - *9 It is better to live in a corner of a roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman.*

NASU

*"His delight turned to
disillusionment. His
dating to debating. His
romance to resentment.
The ideal to an ordeal."*

In this stage of **ORDEAL** we find **DULLNESS** often sets in



The RETHINKING Stage.

- The **Romance Stage** is when we think of marriage as the **perfect ideal**. The **Reality Stage** is where the **ideal** can turn into an **ordeal**. The **Rethinking stage** is when we want a **NEW DEAL**.

A NEW DEAL in an



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A NEW DEAL is not an option.

- **First, with this "long haul mind set" we are more likely to marry right in the first place.**
- **SECOND, if a NEW DEAL is not an option we're more likely to do whatever is essential to make our marriages work!**

"Marriage is like twirling a baton, turning hand springs, or eating with chopsticks. It looks easy until you try it."

**Spouses must seek to UNDERSTAND
and EMBRACE each other's
differences.**



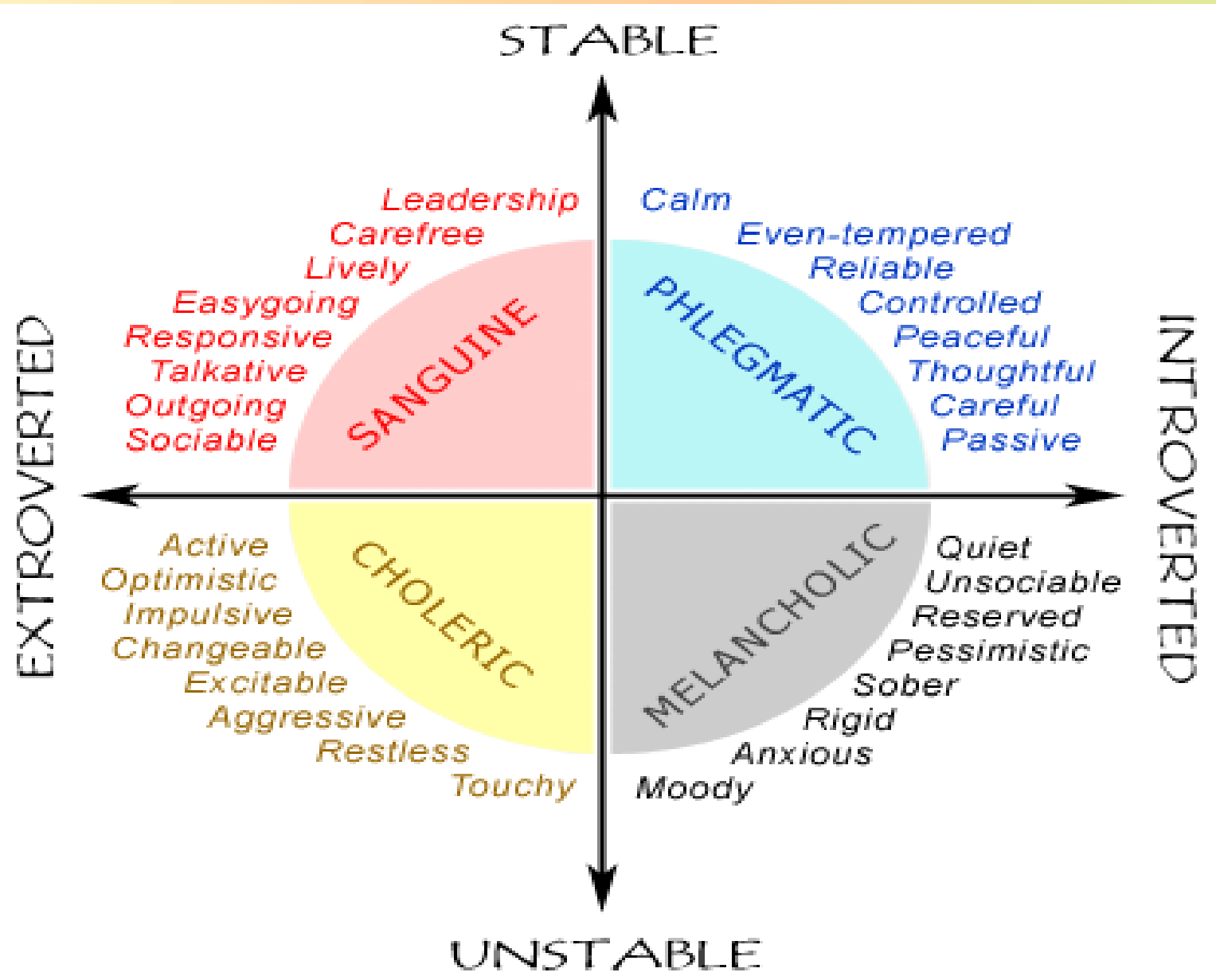
"Before we were married, we had so much in common and now that we are married, we have nothing in common."

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF



Love.

1 Peter 3:7 - *You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.* NASU



**THIRD, AND MOST IMPORTANT, TO
NURTURE YOUR MARRIAGE, INVITE
GOD INTO YOUR RELATIONSHIP.**

- The family was designed to function best when each family member acknowledges Christ as Lord.

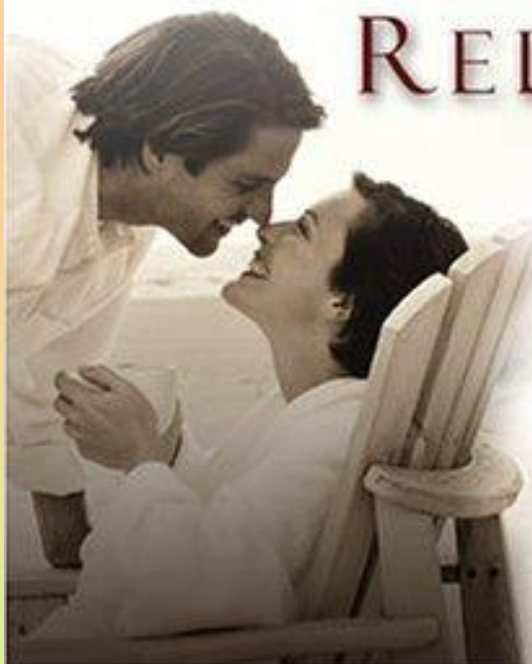
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - 9 *Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. 10 For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. 11 Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? 12 And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.* NASU

Baker *audio* on Compact Disc

LOVE, SEX, AND LASTING RELATIONSHIPS

GOD'S PRESCRIPTION FOR
ENHANCING YOUR LOVE LIFE

CHIP
INGRAM



- **FIND** the right person.
- **FALL** in love.
- **FIX** your hopes and dreams on this person for your future fulfillment.
- If **FAILURE** occurs get a **NEW DEAL** by repeating steps 1, 2, & 3.

- **BECOME** the right person.
- **WALK** in love.
- **FIX** your hope on God and seek to please Him through this relationship.
- If **FAILURE** occurs repeat steps 1, 2, 3.

- 1 Peter 3:1-2 - *In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.* NASU