

E-Series Fireproof (Continued)



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. —**Genesis 2:21-24**

Enough people either talked to me or responded to the last e-series message that I decided to hazard a follow-up to that movie review on *Fireproof: Never Leave Your Partner Behind*.

A while back I was watching a little TV and saw a commercial that piqued my interest. It claimed that you could use your cell phone to “find your one true love.” No joke. That’s what the commercial said. I was so amused I even jotted down the claim: “Just text your name and birthday to ‘Your 1 True Love 52 52 52.’ *Your 1 True Love* uses both horoscopes and numerology to predict, right down to their name, your one true love. Your one true love may be just a phone call away.”

I laughed out loud. Then, I thought, “How sad.” They wouldn’t spend megabucks putting this commercial on the air, if they weren’t going to make a substantial profit off of those who would call. That’s how desperate some people are to find “**their one true love.**”

Call me a curmudgeon, but I don’t believe in anything like a “one true love.” In fact, I think the quest for that “one true love” leads many people astray and straight into heartache.

Let me try to explain. I had a professor at Duke, [Stanley Hauerwas](#), who said that he had discovered a new law of the universe not unlike Newton’s Laws of motion or the Law of Thermodynamics. Here is “[Hauerwas’ Irrefutable Law](#): **You always marry the wrong person.**”

Now, before you get all up in arms, he says that the inverse is also true: “**You always marry the RIGHT person.**”

The reason that both of these statements can be true—or according to Hauerwas are *always* true—is that there is no such thing as Mr. Right. There is no such thing as the “wrong person.” Marriage is about commitment and work. As I stated in the last e-series, it’s why, in the vows, the Church never asks the couple, “Husband, DO you love wife?” or “Wife, DO you love husband?” Instead our question is “Husband, WILL you love?” It’s a promise for the future—as uncertain as that future might be. It’s about dedication and work.

Over the past nine years, I have counseled with countless couples. They certainly haven’t always turned out the way I would have liked, but I haven’t found any exceptions to Hauerwas’ Law. In those cases when both husband and wife were committed to their vows, when they wanted to work it out, they did—with God’s help.

We, the Church, are called to reflect the light of God’s love in all our relationships, particularly our marriage relationships. It’s not easy. As I mentioned to somebody just the other day: It’s crazy to me that I find it hardest to be nice to the person I love most in this world. I can be nice to perfect strangers, but I find it much harder to be nice to my own wife. Well, it might not be easy, but that doesn’t change the fact that we are called to it—to shine God’s light and love in our marriages.



Time to Shine in 2009!

Trying to shine—though Heather might disagree,
Pastor Michael