

D. **Celebrate** your differences.

“in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” I Thessalonians 5:18

Before marriage opposites often **attract**, after marriage opposites often **attack**.

E. **Minimize** your differences.

“...whatever things are lovely,..., if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” Philippians 4:8b

Discover and develop **common** interest.

F. **Accept** your differences.

“Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.” Romans 15:7

Use your uniqueness to **complete** your spouse, not **compete** with your spouse.

Happily
EVER AFTER?

Habit 4: Improve the compatibility in your marriage.

“2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”
Ephesians 4:2-3

HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Help! I've Married The Wrong Person

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INTRODUCTION

A. Happily ever after? It happens...but not by accident. The truth is it takes work for a marriage to work out!

“Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband”
Ephesians 5:33

Falling in love is easy, staying in love takes hard work.

B. In this series, you will learn the six habits of happy couples. They are:

Feb 9	The Foundation Of A Happy Marriage
Feb 16	Finding The Love Of Your Life
Feb 23	Learning To Speak The Same Language
TODAY	Help! I've Married The Wrong Person
Mar 9	The Birds And The Bees
Mar 16	Team Work Makes The Dream Work

Come and discover how to be Happily Ever After.

C. **Text:** Genesis 29:16-26 (Pew Bible/Pg.28/Old Testament)

The Happily Ever After Story Of **Jacob** And **Leah**.

“29 Then he charged them and said to them: “I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,

30 in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place.

31 There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.”
Genesis 49:29-31

HELP! I'VE MARRIED THE WRONG PERSON

I. EVERY MARRIAGE WILL FACE COMPATABILITY ISSUES

A. Your spouse and you are different.

- Different sexes.

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Genesis 1:27

- Different family backgrounds.

- Different communication styles.

- Different personalities.

B. Marriage is a lifelong process of overcoming your differences.

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” Genesis 2:24

Three stages of a marital relationship:

- Romance stage
- Reality stage
- Rekindling stage.

C. Do not use your incompatibility as an excuse to end your marriage.

“For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce,...” Malachi 2:16a

“If people can be divorced for incompatibility, I cannot conceive why all of us are not divorced. I have known many happy marriages, but never a compatible one.”
-G.K. Chesterton

II. WORK AT IMPROVING YOUR COMPATIBILITY ISSUES

“I’ll be the first to admit that it’s possible that you did marry the wrong person. However, if you treat the wrong person like the right person, you could well end up having married the right person after all. On the other hand, if you marry the right person, and treat that person wrong, you certainly will have ended up marrying the wrong person. I also know that it is far more important to be the right kind of person than it is to marry the right person. In short, whether you married the right or wrong person is primarily up to you.”

--Zig Ziglar

A. Forgive your differences.

“bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”

Colossians 3:13

When you develop bitterness toward your spouse they can not do anything to please you.

B. Pray about your differences.

“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,” Luke 18:1

Only God can really make a marriage compatible.

C. Discuss your differences.

“25 Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.

26 “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

27 nor give place to the devil.” Ephesians 4:25-27

Communication is to the marriage what blood is to the body, it keeps it alive.