

學生回應專題演講 “西方文化中的戀愛與婚姻”-反思撰寫

回應: **Andrew sharing on love and marriage**

由吳盛強 [Tim 11110311A](#) 發表於 2023 年 05 月 3 日(三) 20:09

Impressive points from Andrew:

- I enjoyed the beginning when he showed **the history and evolution of love and marriage**. I was a bit shocked that the Catholic influenced era believed marriage was for producing children without consideration for love between the spouses.
- I agree with the points of fairy tale / unrealistic expectations of marriage; it's also true that the "feeling" of love doesn't last very long.
- I definitely agree with the un-suitable characteristic traits for marriage and **we should work on our issues first instead of using marriage as the "solution" to our own personal problems**.
- It was interesting to learn about the chemical influences on our mind when we are in love. They blind us.
- Lastly, I liked learning about the term "**disposable culture**," since it **explains the critical issues with current society's reaction to marriage**.

My reflection:

One of my biggest takeaways from Andrew's sharing is the "disposable culture" issue with today's society. This attitude explains a lot of the lack of commitment to a serious relationship and not willing to work through the problem. Therefore, after a short period of time with a partner, the other person may exit or "dispose" of the relationship and just look for another one. This pattern will not resolve the problem nor help over-come our fears of a long-term relationship. Without commitment and a willingness to work through the issues, people in intimate relationships will not be able to handle a lot of hard challenging issues.

It is true. **The feeling of "love" doesn't last forever**. It is a strong feeling in the beginning and we do minimize nor "see" the flaws in the other person. After a few years, and the chemicals or "feelings" subside, our eyes are more clear and we sometimes ask: "Why did we marry each other?" It is why the romantic and Hollywood or TV drama depiction of love is not accurate. The key after love isn't the feeling, but the commitment to each other. You may get married due to loving each other; but you need to

enter into the marriage as a covenant or commitment. Those vows mean something and it goes over the situations that you two might go through: sickness or health; poverty or riches. I've seen this **in my parents**. They went through a lot of hard times; we may all want to call it quits, but **the commitment to the marriage helps them get through**. And guess what? **The feeling of love doesn't just disappear, it might deepen into friendship and companionship**. **The layers that a long-lasting relationship builds will add to the richness of the marriage... and you will find that love may actually GROW and DEEPEN.**

Love is a mystery that will take commitment to solve and understand. What did I do to choose my wife? I actually prayed to God and said: "I'm just not SMART enough to know who will be suitable; please choose for me." It took years of waiting, but it's been worth it and I thank God for answering my prayer.

由 [Hsiung, Hsien-Kuan](#) 發表於 2023 年 05 月 20 日(六) 22:08

Wonderful piece of reflection with cherished values/viewpoints (backed up by personal experiences) which seem fading at this post-modern age...

回應: **Andrew sharing on love and marriage**

由 [Raven](#) 發表於 2023 年 05 月 6 日(六) 22:20

I feel so wistful for not attending Andrew's talk this time. **I wanted nothing more than to listen to this interesting topic in person**; sadly, due to reasons beyond my control hence I couldn't make it. Anyway, **I feel fascinated to know about the evolution of Love and Marriage from the early Greeks and the early Romans until the 21st century, from arranged marriages to love marriages, then same-sex marriages and open marriages**. Then, I'm more than thrilled to hear about problems with today's attitudes toward love and marriage, in which I find myself.

1. His idea about Disposable Culture reminds me of a quote from a Viet movie called "Win My Baby Back": "There's nothing in this world that doesn't break. If we can't fix it in one day, then we fix it in ten days. The important thing is whether it's worth to be fixed or not."

I'm a believer that there's a huge difference between walking away from a relationship because it's not working or throwing in the towel when there are challenges or tough phases. We seem to live in a throwaway culture where we can buy everything new easily, so why do we need to fix things (including relationships)?

From this viewpoint, we are too indifferent to each other when there is a problem happened because what we choose is to change, to find someone else instead of trying to mend it. **It seems like a quick solution to a relationship issue because finding a new one, a new love is so easy. But, is it really the only option all the time? I don't think so.**

2. In Vietnam, the marriage age of Vietnamese people increases year by year. Even many young people are not interested in married life, including me (at this point).

I find myself (from Andrew's sharing) having two main factors attributed to this issue. First, as Andrew mentioned, it is about unrealistic expectations. I grew up with Disney movies, in which most fairy tales end with telling the reader that the characters "lived happily ever after". In fact, in today's world, it's so common for me to catch a lot of news of my friends, acquaintances, or celebrities on social media going through divorces and bad breakups even though those are relationships lasting from 5-10 years (even more). For example, Miley Cyrus divorced Liam Hemsworth although they'd been together for about 10 years. Reading an increasing number of such articles on social ties that are weakening make me lose my faith in love and marriage more than ever. Second, modern life is full of exciting options for single life such as being solely responsible for myself and not having to deal with the hassles of another person such as a spouse and children. Just imagining life without pressure when living alone can make me lack of interest in choosing to get married.

3. I'd like to appreciate Andrew for sharing his advice: Lonely and single than lonely and married. I'm single. Sometimes lonely, but I'm happy, and that's the most important. My mind is uncluttered. I'm more open to whatever life throws my way. I can go wherever I want, do whatever I want. Surrounded by great people. Being single is much better than being with someone who makes me feel that I should be.

Basically, people have the right to choose not to get married if they are not ready.

There are 2 questions stuck in my head:

1. From my observation, arranged marriages usually last longer than love ones. Why is that? How can two strangers marry on the first meeting when knowing nothing about each other? Supposed they married because of economic and political reasons, but I don't think they can handle all the marriage problems and live together for their whole life. One of my friends said that in arranged marriages, people fall in love slowly while living together. On the contrary, people who have love marriages easily lose their interest after a few years of marriage as it seems like there's nothing to get to know each other. The passion dies out, the care fades away, and the romance flies out of the window. We tend to forget what it feels like to be happy when we first get things we want, but only remember the boring feeling of looking at them dozens of times a day. Somehow, this answer was not really satisfying me. I feel marriage is too fragile. I meant it takes you a decade to get to know a person, but just a second to realize that this is not the right person?

2. Andrew shared "When looking at someone, think about what would this person be like in 20 years' time? If they have what will attract you in 20 or 30 years' time, then they are much more like the right one". Don't you think it is likely to be possible for a person to change their feelings towards something in someone they used to love? Because I find our feelings and opinions are constantly changing, and what we loved yesterday may not even be what we love today. For instance, you fell in love with a person because of their sense of humor. They always made you laugh. Then, in the next 10 years, maybe because of changes in circumstances, environment, or perspective, you find them so annoying. You may feel their joke that seems to mock on sarcastic things is not funny anymore. They don't change, but you do. How do you cope with changes in yourself?

由 [Hsiung, Hsien-Kuan](#) 發表於 2023 年 05 月 20 日(六) 22:48

[Thanks for such a candid and genuine reflective sharing! Tim's reflection above could help before Andrew is invited again to offer suggestion :\)](#)

回應: Andrew sharing on love and marriage

由郭睿綸 KUO WILSON RUI-LUN(Wilso) 11010017A 發表於 2023 年 05 月 5 日(五)
22:04

Impressive points from Andrew

1. Unrealistic expectations: At the beginning of a relationship, most of us have unrealistic expectations, but don't be tricked by dramas.

2. Passion is blind and looking for a person of character: According to the speaker, being in love triggers a chemical in your body called dopamine, which makes you feel good or in love. Therefore, romantic love is blind, and we shouldn't solely rely on our intuition to find a lover. Looking for a person of character is a good model for us to follow.

My reflection:

I've been wondering why people have unrealistic expectations. For example, **many** people **expect their partner to be perfect** for them in every way, sharing all their interests, values, and beliefs. This is an unrealistic expectation because no two people are completely alike. I think it's important to recognize that there will be differences and conflicts in a relationship, and it's vital to learn to work through them. Another **unrealistic expectation** is that **one person can fulfill all your emotional, physical, and social needs**. However, this is not realistic. I think it's important to recognize that your partner can't fulfill all your needs and that you also have to socialize with friends, family, and the community to meet different needs. Finally, some people believe that if they are truly in love, they will never have any conflict. However, conflict is a natural part of any relationship. I think it's important to learn how to resolve conflicts in a healthy way."

To be honest, I think most of us have probably had a crush on someone in our lifetime, especially when it comes to love. There is nothing wrong in this matter. I totally share Andrew's view that we should focus on a person's character. Many people ask the question, 'What do you prefer, soul or beauty?' **In my opinion, beautiful appearances are all alike, while an interesting mind is unmatched. As Andrew said, we should focus on a person's inner character.**