Pastor Andy Stanley:
“New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating”

Plus, selected wisdom from C.S. Lewis
“New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating” by Andy Stanley – notes from KH

Our society cast a very poor vision of sex and love.

Sport dating folks will not like this 4 part series.

However, this series will be helpful in the next chapter in your life: Your relational past will be revealed in the future.

People with problems get married. This is not a marriage problem. Rather is the process of bringing unresolved problems into a marriage. The big lie: If I just marry this person, all of the problems will go away and everything will be all right.

Chemistry alone does not keep the marriage together. In fact the one thing that holds a relationship together (chemistry) may start to fail.

Become the right person before you attempt to get into the right relationship.

**Are you the person that another person is looking for? Are you going to try to become the right person that someone else is looking for? Or are you merely hunting and seeking as part of competitive game?**

How do I become the right person? See list of daily skills contained in 1 Cor 13. None of this comes naturally. Passion and chemistry does come naturally.
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“Frankin-marriage”: Chemistry was the only thing that held the marriage together.

A man loves a women because of her radiant youth and hot body. What happens to the relationship when the couple ages?

So your in love [- What do you do? See 1 Cor 13:11.

Put away your childish ways

The secret is not finding the right person. It is about becoming the right person.

Historical view of women in 1st century AD:

1. Women = commodity (something to be traded in for something of greater value)
2. Women has no legal status
3. Prostitution was rampant in 1st century AD.
4. Roman men fearful of having kids with wife due to property disputes
5. Rome has to pass laws mandating marriage.
6. A diminished value of life

What does Paul say:

**She does not belong to you!. The teachings of Jesus were revolutionary.**
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Peter’s view on women: See 1 Peter 3:7.

**Revolutionary thought for a man in 1st Century:** Use your position of might and power to honor and respect your wife.

“You can not date like a slave owner and then make the transition to marriage by simply putting on a tux.”

Renew your mind and practice being the person that another person is looking for.

Every culture that has descended into atrocity started by calling names to people that were held as sub-standard. A society that calls women whores and bitches is a lower form of culture.

What erotic imagery really means to those that view it: 1. A real body is not good enough and 2. One body is not good enough and 3. Your wife’s body is not good enough. **This is destroying marriages all over the US.**

How are you to treat someone that you are supposed to honor?
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Advise to single folks: Take a year off from dating. Practice in becoming the person that another person is looking for. Then date 1 year later.

Put away the habits of childhood.

Lies regarding sex: 1. It is just physical and no body gets hurt. 2. It is a positive sum game and everybody gets what they want.

Counter claim: Sex is connected to your soul. If hurt by sex, the harm is done at the deepest level. It is not just physical. God made sex by design with predicable outcomes and consequences.

The Stradivarius violin: A very expensive violin from Italy. Extremely sought after. Would it’s value be diminished if it were passed around and given freely to all that wanted it?

God created intimacy (to be fully known and to know): Sex is the ultimate expression of intimacy. It is both powerful and magical. Intimacy can be broken once it is detached from sex.
Secular religions and cults have made sex with leadership a requirement.

Paul’s letter to the Corinthians is God’s attempt to correct what was/is wrong with religion and sex.

See 1 Cor 6:18. Those that sin against their bodies.

Paul/Moses/Jesus all stated what no one had the courage to say. See 1 Cor 6:19-20.

Advice for single people: 1. Determine the story you want to tell. 2. Live in such a way as to tell this story (I am preparing for you). 3. Decide ahead of time what honoring your body looks like. 4. Give up something now for something better is not a sacrifice – it is an investment in your future.

All couples make promises that they are unable to keep. Paths people choose trump the commitments they make. In some respects commitment is over-rated because if you promise something that can not delivery on, the promise is irrelevant. Promises are not good substitutes for preparation.

A bad marriage is too late. Prepare to commit
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See Proverbs 14:8-15: You will lose your mind in love. Work on this before it happens. Do not explain away bad behavior.

Single people: Address your unresolved childhood issues. Otherwise, the hole in your heart will still be there when you commit to a relationship.

See Louis Giglio sermon on Boy Meets Girl. See www.northpoint.org/fightclub.

Don’t dress like a commodity nor accept being treated like one.

Each fisherman baits his hook with what? Answer; Whatever he is trying to catch.

“If you fish with only your body, then the only thing you will catch are body snatchers.” (An Andy Stanley classic)

Preparation involves breaking bad habits. Get out of debt. Postpone living together and the physical part of relationship. Invest in your future by exercising self control.
Additional comments by KH:

Respect for your friends: If you’ve gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care – then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don’t push your way to the front; don’t sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don’t be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. Think of yourself the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn’t think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what.” Philippians 2:1-5
Teenage/Young adult infatuation can be a wonderful thing. But, it's not the only thing.

Per C.S. Lewis in Chapter 6 (Christian Marriage), being “in-love” can not be perpetual. “What would become of your work and your house chores?” To love and to be loved, now, this is the stuff that has staying power. It is the engine by which that marriages are run. This is what life long partnerships are made of. It is the “I love you very much (but at this moment I do not feel it because I am really pissed) kind of love.

Actual quote from C.S. Lewis: “What we call “being in love” is a glorious state, and, I several ways, good for us. It helps to make us generous and courageous; it opens our eyes not only to the beauty of the beloved but to all beauty. . Being in love is good thing, but it is not the best thing. You can not make it the basis of your whole life. It is noble feeling, but it is still a feeling. To Love and Be Loved in the second sense - love as distinct from “being in love” is not merely a feeling. It is deep unity maintained by will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by the grace which both partners ask and receive from God. . . . Being “in love” first moved them to promise of fidelity: this quieter love enables them to keep the promise. It is on this love the engine of marriage is run: being in love is the explosion that started it.”