

Saints and sinners: What is key to a happy marriage?

Most marriage manuals that advise wives to give in to their husbands are written by men. "Let wives be subject to their husbands in everything" (catch that word "everything") is in the Bible all right, but, predictably, it was written by a man (St. Paul). Would a woman have said the same thing?

Well, the author of a new book, "The Surrendered Wife" (Fireside, 2001), is, unpredictably, a 33-year-old wife who doesn't base her case on the demands of the Bible. She argues that "an acquiescent wife is the key to a happy marriage."

Before she agreed to surrender all to her husband, her marriage was going nowhere. By her own admission, author Laura Doyle was a "control freak, constantly nagging and demeaning

him." In her book, Doyle writes that men are to be given control of the finances in the home regardless of who is better with the money and that wives are to have sex with their husbands once a week, whether they are in the mood for it or not.

"If he asks for your opinion on anything," Doyle writes, "say, 'Whatever YOU think, dear.'"

Can a marriage work when the wife is always the one to give in? Many doubt it. But consider the case of Joe and Ann.

They were incompatible in lots of ways — probably like most couples, Ann felt. But that didn't bother her. As long as Joe was willing to compromise once in a while, things were all



george plagenz

• saints & sinners

right.

As time went on, however, Ann found herself giving in more and more until it seemed she was doing all the giving in.

She talked Joe into going with her to see a psychiatrist. He found that Ann was well-adjusted, responding normally to an unhappy marriage. Joe was found to be neurotic, immat-

ture and repressed.

He would probably never change, the doctor told Ann.

After thinking it over, she decided to stay with Joe. Little Stephen would be better off with a sometime father than with no father at all.

Gradually, things got better. Not that Joe changed all that much.

When Ann returned home after a visit with her parents, he greeted her by saying, "Why didn't you stay longer? It was very peaceful without you." This time, however, Ann was unruffled.

In time, her new serenity began to have its effects. Joe seemed more relaxed. Not affectionate by any means, but he played with Stephen and made regular efforts to talk with him.

Ann and Joe started taking walks together and even developed a range of topics they could discuss. Once, on one of their walks, she suggested that Joe might see the psychiatrist again.

"Me?" said Joe. "Why me? You're the one who's nuts." So, you see, Joe hadn't become a totally different person.

But there have been signs of progress. Definite ones. Ones that other people might not recognize. But Ann does. For instance, last month Joe remembered her birthday.

Must a wife in Ann's shoes do all the adjusting? Ann did. And she says she would do it again.

Was she right? Is author Laura Doyle right that an acquiescent wife is the key to a happy marriage?

Ban on gay clergy may take center stage at Presbyterian Church meeting

By Bruce Schreiner

Associated Press Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A disagreement simmering within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) over a ban on ordination of homosexuals may boil over in the next week.

Opponents of the ban intend to seek its repeal when the nation's sixth-largest Protestant denomination holds its national assembly beginning Saturday in Louisville. This city is also the headquarters of the church, which has as many as 3.6 million members.

"We resent this categorical prohibition," said the Rev. Laird Stuart, a San Francisco pastor who leads a group pushing for repeal. "We would like ordaining bodies to be given the right to ordain people as individuals, not as members of categories."

Conservatives are prepared to defend the ban.

"There is a prohibition that is very straightforward, that we believe the Scriptures teach, and the church ought to proclaim that our officers should model in their own lives," said the Rev. Jerry Andrews of suburban Chicago. "How else can the church honor the Lord of the church, if we neglect the word of the Lord?"

The Presbyterians are among several mainline Protestant denominations, notably the Episcopal Church and United Methodist Church, that have struggled with the issue of gay clergy and same-sex unions in recent years. Other Protestant groups could face debates and protests at national meetings this summer.

Stuart and Andrews each said the struggle in the Presbyterian churches could go either way. Repeal would require not only passage at the Louisville assembly but also — and probably

harder to achieve — ratification by a majority of the church's 173 presbyteries, or regional legislatures.

The sexual-conduct standard was inserted into the church's constitution in 1997. It withstood a repeal attempt the next year.

In 1999, church policy-makers imposed a two-year moratorium that shielded the sexual-conduct law from changes. The cooling-off period was intended to let Presbyterians reflect on the emotional issue.

Under the conduct standard, ministers, deacons and elders are required to "live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness." The practical effect was to prohibit gays and lesbians from ascending to the pulpit or lay leadership.

As they prepare to defend the ordination standard, conservatives are re-

grouping from a defeat on whether Presbyterian clergy can officiate at "commitment ceremonies" for gay couples. The national assembly voted for a ban last year, but the presbyteries failed to ratify it. That gave clergy leeway to conduct such rites, as long as they are not confused with marriages.

Andrews said that defeat caused a frustration among conservatives that would be deepened if the ban on gay ordination was lifted.

"This is not just a matter of private sexual behavior. This is about will the Scriptures continue to have authority in the common life of the church," Andrews said. "It's a foundational issue for moderates and evangelicals in the church."

With both sides entrenched, the gay-rights feud may drive people from the denomination, though some say an outright split is unlikely.

"I think a lot of people in the middle and the left of the middle and right of the middle want to do everything possible to avoid a schism," Stuart said.

But some people are already drifting away, he said.

"Gay and lesbian people who do not think the church is hospitable to them are leaving," as are "conservative people who are tired of the battle and don't understand why those of us who want this changed won't be quiet," Stuart said.

Andrews said he worked on fence-mending with moderate and evangelical congregations after conservatives lost the fight on same-sex ceremonies. "For the moment we hold" as a denomination, Andrews said. If the assembly votes to repeal the ordination standard, "my phone calls may no longer hold us together," he said.

Several presbyteries have submitted resolutions to delete the standard. Two

presbyteries propose granting waivers to congregations and presbyteries that cannot "in good conscience" comply with the law.

Other potentially divisive issues expected to draw discussion at the eight-day assembly include abortion and the meaning of salvation.

One resolution calls on the assembly to declare "moral opposition" to abortion of fetuses 20 weeks and older, except to save the mother. It would chip away at the church's position favoring abortion rights.

Another would state that salvation requires an acceptance of Jesus Christ. It was prompted by comments at a Presbyterian conference last summer by the Rev. Dirk Ficca, who suggested salvation can occur apart from faith in Jesus. Ficca, a Presbyterian, directs an interfaith organization based in Chicago, the Parliament of the World's Religions.



Grace Fellowship Church

Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Don Crutcher

Fifth & Broadway

899-7368

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am

Worship Service: 10 am

Evening Service: 6:30 pm

Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Calvary Gospel Church

Pastor: Rev. Steve Rains

Fourth & College • 899-3605

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Morning Worship: 10:30 am

Evening Worship: 6:30 pm

Wednesday: Family Night: 7 pm

Adult Bible Study and Youth Group

Saturday: Prayer Meeting: 5-7 pm

If you would like to receive a free newsletter, please call the church office.

Church of Christ

401 Caldwell

899-6185

Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am

Worship Service: 10:45 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Matthew Delp

Third & Caldwell

899-2080 or 899-3797

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am

Worship Service: 10:50 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First Baptist Church

Pastor:

Fifth & Center • 899-3450

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Morning Worship: 10:30 am

Evening Worship: 6 pm

Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 5:30 am

Thursday: Ladies' Bible Study: 10 am

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail

Pastor: Bobby Potter • 332-3956

Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am

Worship Service: 11 am

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Pastor: Loren Strait

Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups,

Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups,

Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship

Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing

Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler

Nurseries Available

First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman

899-3631

Pastor: Rev. Carol Moore-Ramey

Sunday: Sunday School: 10:15 am

Worship Service: 9 am

Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398

Minister: Tony Kaika

Youth Minister: Doug Bean

Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

Wednesday:

Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm

Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 899-6161

Pastor: Scott Grimshaw

Sunday: Sunday School: 8:45 am

Worship Service: 10 am

Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Kanorado

United Methodist Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox

399-2468

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am

Worship Service: 10:15 am

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400

Pastor:

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am

Morning Worship: 11 am

Evening Worship: 6 pm

Wednesday: Call for location

Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423

Pastor: Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Worship Service: 11 am

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center

899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114

Priest: Father Charles Schneider

Deacon: Gretchen Talitha

Saturday: Church School: 4 pm

Holy Communion: 5 pm

Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Sr. Warden for emergencies during the week 899-2067

Church of Jesus Christ

of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (970) 664-2470

Sacrament Meeting: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

Priesthood/Relief Society: 11:30 am

Word of Life Foursquare Church

223 E. 10th

899-5250

Pastor: John Coumerilh

Sunday: Worship Celebration &

Kids' Church: 10:30 am

United Methodist Church

Brewster:

Pastor:

Worship Service: 10:45 am CST

Sunday School: 9:45 am CST

Winona:

Minister: Rev. Bob Winters

Worship Service: 9 am CST

Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo

Spanish Speaking Church

Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.

1601 Texas • 899-5275

Daily Prayer: Sunday thru

Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Pastor: Father Daryl Olmstead

307 W. 13th • 899-7205

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 6 pm

Sunday: 8 am and 9:30 am

Spanish Mass:

1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

Pleasant Home Church

Serving the rural community for over 100 years

Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70

Pastor: Jim Cress

899-5784

Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am

Sunday School: 10 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

Short & Son Trucking

Hwy. 24

Koons Funeral Chapel

North Main

Golden Wheat Ranch

Office 110 E. 11th

Goodland Daily News

1205 Main

Good Samaritan Center

208 W. 2nd

Goodland Motor Co.

Hwy. 24

Topside Office Products, Inc.

1110 Main