





Pat Love, Ed.D.

Author of Hot Monogamy, The Truth About Love , and How to Improve Your Marriage Without Talking About It



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## Poll #1

How many of you are mental health professionals?

# Positive Outcome in Therapy for Relationships 2.0

The rules are the same:

- 1. You understand me and my issues
- 2. You are smart
- 3. Your treatment plan makes sense



## Poll #2

How many of you have tried online dating?

## 1. Relationships 2.0

- The Millennial Meme
- · 1980-2004



### 2. Millennials in Love

- Dating
- Mating



## 3. Relationships 2.0

- Cyberspace
- Versus
- Face-to-face



## 4. Stages of Love

- Infatuation
- Post-rapture
- Discovery
- Connection



# 5. The Changing Face of Commitment/Marriage

- Pragmatic
- Traditional
- Companionate
- Self-fulfillment



## Poll #3

How many of you have had experience with infidelity?

- Working with clients who've experienced infidelity
  - Personally
    - Both

## 6. Relationship of Infidelity

And commitment



## Can 22 million people

∘Be wrong?



## Monogamy isn't normal

- Non-monogamy isn't normal
- Variety is normal



## 7. Infidelity defined

•How do the individuals define infidelity?



#### 8. Is it an affair or is it addiction?

- Compulsivity
- Efforts to stop
- Loss of control
- Loss of time
- Preoccupation
- Failure to fulfill obligations and commitments
- Continuation despite consequences
- Escalation
- Personal losses
- Withdrawal



### 9. What is the meaning of the affair

- Hedonism
- Inflated view of one's ability to control the boundaries
- Delusion
- Filling a void
- Falling in love
- Redefining the self
- Need gratification
- More suitable mate
- Recreation and compartmentalization
- Rejuvenate marriage/commitment
- Accident

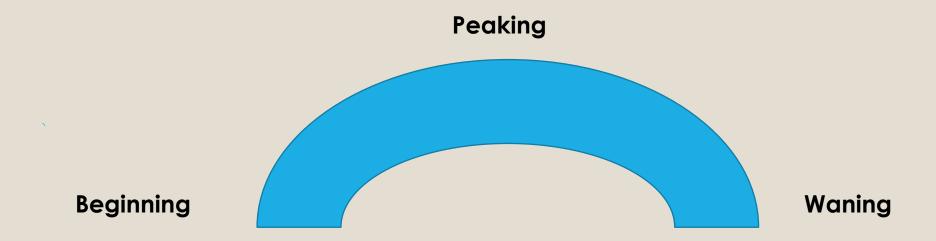


## Infidelity is correlated

- With opportunity
- Proximity



#### The Arc of Infatuation



## Explanation of PTS

Betrayal as trauma



#### Bases to Cover

- Cessation—zero contact
- Giving information
- Compassion and remorse
- Building trust
- Forgiveness, moving on
- Redefining the relationship
- Re-commitment



#### Cessation—Zero Contact

- FTF
- Texting
- Calling
- Emailing
- Chatting
- Clean up cyberspace
- Music lists
- Pictures



## What about the workplace

- Leaving the job
- Redefine contact
- Negotiate boundaries



## Giving information

- Relevant truth versus details
- Need facts for decision-making
- Need congruent information to build trust
- Rebuild the relationship on truth and trust



## Compassion

 Remorse is correlated with future fidelity



## Building trust

- Three steps
- ∘1. Say what you are going to do...
- ∘2. Do it...
- ∘3. Repeat steps 1 and 2!



## Forgiveness/moving on

- Give some ballpark recovery dates TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON SITUATION AND COMPLEXITY OF BETRAYAL
- Clock doesn't start running until zero contact
- Recovery is largely dependent upon betrayer's behavior and betrayed's maturity
- If both individuals are mentally healthy...
- First 30 days—volatile variation of feelings, roller-coaster, PTS symptoms
- Two months—see some good days
- 90 days—slightly more good days than bad
- First year—year of the "firsts," anniversary syndrome, implicit memories

## Poll #4

Do you feel you can use these tools in dealing with a dealing with a dealing with an infidelity?

## Values-focused therapy

Versus feeling-focused therapy



#### Thank You!

- Pat Love, Ed.D. LMFT, LPC
- www.patlove.com
- Never Be Lonely Again
- How to Improve Your Marriage Without Talking About It
- How to Ruin a Perfectly Good Relationship
- The Truth About Love
- Hot Monogamy
- Emotional Incest Syndrome: What to Do When a Parent's Love Rules Your Life

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