

# THIS KOREAN LIFE

Winter: December 19, 2009

Wedding Edition

Honeymoon at  
Hong Kong Harbor



East/  
West

A look at the  
differences in  
our marriage  
traditions

*We're Getting  
Married!*



# Welcome to our Wedding!

## VOCATION: MARRIAGE

Aaron - Dec 6

I recently stumbled across a very interesting linking of words on the Internet: *marriage vocation*. We all know what marriage is, but what exactly is vocation? According to the dictionary, vocation is: “the work to which a person is employed: occupation” and another synonym: “calling.” Interesting.

The word “vocation” is originally a Christian word (from Latin) and referred to the calling God placed on a man (or woman) when he called them into ministry. Today, the definition of vocation has expanded to include all occupations or pursuits to which a person feels “called.”

Is it true then, that we are “called” to marriage? What does being “called to marriage” mean? And how can one be “called to marriage” if they are already married?

An equally interesting thought is a seemingly unrelated quote I found by Martin Luther King Jr. about prayer:

*“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”*

Prayer is communication with God, plain and simple. But, it’s not a one-time thing, or even a one-way street. Mr. King relates it to breath. Andrew Murray says:

*“Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue. God’s voice in response to mine is its most essential part.”*

Likewise, marriage is not a monologue, but dialogue. When two people marry, they no longer have only one to care for, but two, for the two become one. Communication, deep communication, between the two then becomes like breath - and we all know what happens without breath.

But in the busyness of today’s world, when is there time for communication? When is there time for breath?

When two people get married, they share everything: the house, the car, the dishes, the children, their bed, their food, their bodies. But how much of what is shared is the *breath* of their marriage and how much is just stuff? And how does it all relate to marriage as a vocation?

Quite simply, if I treat marriage as my vocation, my “calling,” then I’ll make time for it, see to its growth, and give it plenty of oxygen. On the other hand, I can make grand plans for the growth and success of my work all the while letting my marriage suffocate without me.

I will never see a family grow and thrive if my “calling” is misplaced. I am to be: Christian first, husband second, father third, and all others after that.

When we learn the breath of marriage, we must also then breathe the breath of life. For the Christian: prayer (as dialogue).



Sarah - Dec 11

How’s your feeling about Marriage?”

“International marriage, huh? That sounds cool!”

Those are the responses from friends who got a wedding invitation from us.

My heart is very calm at this moment that I’m waiting for my wedding.

It has been almost 2years since I said “Yes” to Aaron to be his girlfriend.

There was lots of joy and happiness as well as tears and heartbrokenness.

But, one thing I can say now surely is that God was there in our relationship no matter what happened. We both realized that we need God and He really loves us.

It has been my dream and prayer to lead my family to God with my future husband.

So, I’m very excited to see how our Lord Jesus Christ will work through us for his will.



# EAST VS. WEST

A look at the differences in our marriage traditions



*From Wikipedia - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wedding>*

A wedding is the ceremony in which two people are united in marriage or a similar institution. Wedding traditions and customs vary greatly between cultures, ethnic groups, religions, countries, and social classes. Most wedding ceremonies involve an exchange of wedding vows by the couple, presentation of a gift (offering, ring(s), symbolic item, flowers, money), and a public proclamation of marriage by an authority figure or leader. Special wedding garments are often worn, and the ceremony is followed by a wedding reception. Music, poetry, prayers or readings from Scripture or literature also may be incorporated into the ceremony. Additionally, a number of cultures adopt the traditional Western custom of a bride wearing a white dress.

Marriage for South Koreans is similar to that of their Western counterparts, but has unique features of its own. For example, Korean brides do not adopt their groom's surname as in many Western marriages.

# Eastern Wedding Customs

# United i



## TRADITIONALLY

In ancient times, weddings were held in the bride's yard or house. The groom traveled by horse to the bride's house and after the wedding ceremony took his wife in a palanquin (cart) to his parents' house to live. The bride and groom wore formal court costumes for the wedding ceremony. Ordinary people were permitted to wear the luxurious clothes only on their wedding day. Hand lanterns were used for lighting the way from the groom's home to the bride's home on the night before the wedding.

Traditionally, the groom's family would carry a wedding chest filled with gifts for the bride's family. Wedding ducks are a symbol for a long and happy marriage. Cranes are a symbol of long life and may be seen on the woman's sash.

## MODERN STYLE

In larger cities, luxury hotels will have 'wedding halls' or ballrooms used specifically for wedding ceremonies. These rooms are decorated with a wedding motif and are rented to couples. Other halls are independent facilities that can hold several different weddings at once.

Today, many couples have a 'Westernized' ceremony with tuxedo and white wedding gown, then proceed with a smaller-scale, traditional wedding after the main ceremony.

## WEDDING HALLS

Whereas a hotel ballroom or church must retain the flexibility necessary for other functions, independent wedding halls are able to focus strictly on weddings, and even cater to specific themes. Weddings in luxurious hotels had been prohibited by the government in 1980, became partly permitted in 1994, and became completely permitted in 1999.

In busier wedding halls, formality (except for the couple and their families) is typically relaxed compared to Western standards. There may be a buffet hall on one floor in which guests from all of the different weddings come for a meal, either before or after the ceremony, which may take no longer than 20 minutes.

The most common gift for a new couple is cash, and in the hall outside the salon, representatives from the couple's families will collect and log donations.

## TRADITIONAL PYEBAEK CEREMONY

The official ceremony in front of guests is followed by Pyebaek: a ceremony among family members exclusively. The bride formally greets her new parents-in-law after the wedding. Additionally, the groom often gives a piggy back ride to his mother and then his bride, symbolizing acceptance of his obligations to both.

The ceremony begins with the older couple seated on cushions behind a table in front of a painted screen, with the newlyweds opposite them. The newlyweds perform a deep bow and the older couple shares some wisdom on marriage from their advanced experience. Finally they will throw jujubes (representing girls) and chestnuts (boys) at bride, who has to try catching them with her wedding sash. The number caught is the number of future children.

## RECEPTION

The modern Korean wedding feast or reception can be a mix of traditional and western cultures. At a traditional wedding feast a guest would expect to find bulgogi (marinated BBQ strips), galbi (marinated short ribs), a variety of kimchi (pickled cabbage with a variety of spices, with other ingredients such as radishes, seafood). There will be many accompanying bowls of sauces for dipping.

The meal is always accompanied with a vast quantity of white, sticky rice as well as kimbap (rice, egg, spinach, crab meats, pickled radish, and other ingredients rolled in seaweed and sliced into 1-inch rounds). Mandu dumplings filled with cabbage, carrots, meat, spinach, garlic, onions, chives, and clear noodles. These dumplings may be deep-fried or steamed. Soup and a large variety of fruits will be offered as well. A spoon and chopsticks are used for eating.

## WEST

White wedding, church wedding, rings, reception, and "kiss the bride" will all be part of our ceremony. Fortunately for us, Korea already has much western culture incorporated into their modern wedding celebrations. The only thing we really need to worry about is the legal documents to make us married.

Since I'm a non-Korean, there are a few more legal hurdles to go through than just getting some witnesses to sign off on my marriage license. We need to make two trips to the US Embassy in Seoul - the first trip to start our paperwork, and the second to finalize it after everything is approved and stamped by the Provincial Office in Jeonju. But after that, it should be smooth sailing... until I want a visa to bring my wife to the US.

Most notably among things that will not be included in our wedding will be a bridal party and receiving line at the end.



**EAST****BRIDAL PARTY****MAIN EVENT****FOOD & CAKE**

At the conclusion of the wedding ceremony, family and friends will be arranged on stage surrounding us for pictures to add to our wedding album. Then, there will be a bouquet toss, but only to one girl who is chosen before the ceremony begins, is close to the bride, and is likely the next in line to marry. (No mad-dash for the bouquet here, it's all planned out ahead of time.)



After the pictures and bouquet toss, the guests will move along to the wedding dinner and reception as is Korean custom. However, immediate family will participate in another Korean custom in the Pyebaek ceremony. Here we will receive marriage advice from our parents and try to catch our "children" (jujubes = girls, chestnuts = boys) in traditional clothes. (← See left)

**WEST MEETS EAST**

At the conclusion of the Korean reception, we intend to have another small reception for immediate family and close friends in a western style: complete with cake cutting, a first dance, and a(n honorary) best man's toast.

This is the specially selected group of close friends and family that has been asked to join the wedding couple at the altar. The wedding party also often gets to join the couple at the head table for dinner.

The selection of the members of a wedding party comprises a very personal and important part of any wedding plans. The roles played by the various members of the party are parts of a time-honored tradition. And as with most honors, there comes a certain amount of responsibility, as each role in the party carries with it particular duties.

A wedding party should consist of those relatives and friends who are closest to the wedding couple, people on whom they can always depend. The careful selection of those close few who will share the honor of a special place in the party will give the feeling of being surrounded by those who are most loved. And feelings of security and affection will only add to the enjoyment of the special day as the couple will be certain that everything has been "taken care of."

**THE BOUQUET & GARTER TOSS**

In the mid-twentieth century it became common for a bride to toss her bouquet over her shoulder to the assembled unmarried women during the reception. The woman who catches it, superstition has it, will be the next to marry. In a similar process, her groom tosses the bride's garter to the unmarried men. It is a symbolic gesture of the groom tossing his old life away in exchange for his new married life, and the garter toss is a way of passing good fortune on to whomever catches it. Similarly, anything the bride wears is believed to have good luck. The man who catches the garter is thought to be the next to wed.

A wedding ceremony may take place anywhere, but often a church, courthouse, or outdoor venue. The ceremony is usually brief, and is may be dictated by the couple's religious practices. The most common non-religious form is derived from a simple Anglican ceremony in the Book of Common Prayer.

The bride usually wears a white, off-white, silver, or other very light-colored dress, particularly at her first marriage. Brides may choose any color, although black is strongly discouraged by some as it is the color of mourning in the west.

Rice is sometimes thrown at the newlyweds as they leave the ceremony to symbolize fertility. Some individuals, churches or communities choose birdseed due to a false but widely believed myth that birds eating the rice will burst. Because of the mess that rice and birdseed make, modern couples often leave in clouds of bubbles.

The wedding party may form a receiving line at this point, or later at a reception, so that each guest may greet the entire wedding party.

Drinks, snacks, (or often a full meal at long receptions) are served while the guests and wedding party mingle. Often the best man and/or maid of honor toast the newlyweds with personal thoughts, stories, and well-wishes; sometimes other guests follow with their own toasts. Champagne is usually provided for this purpose.

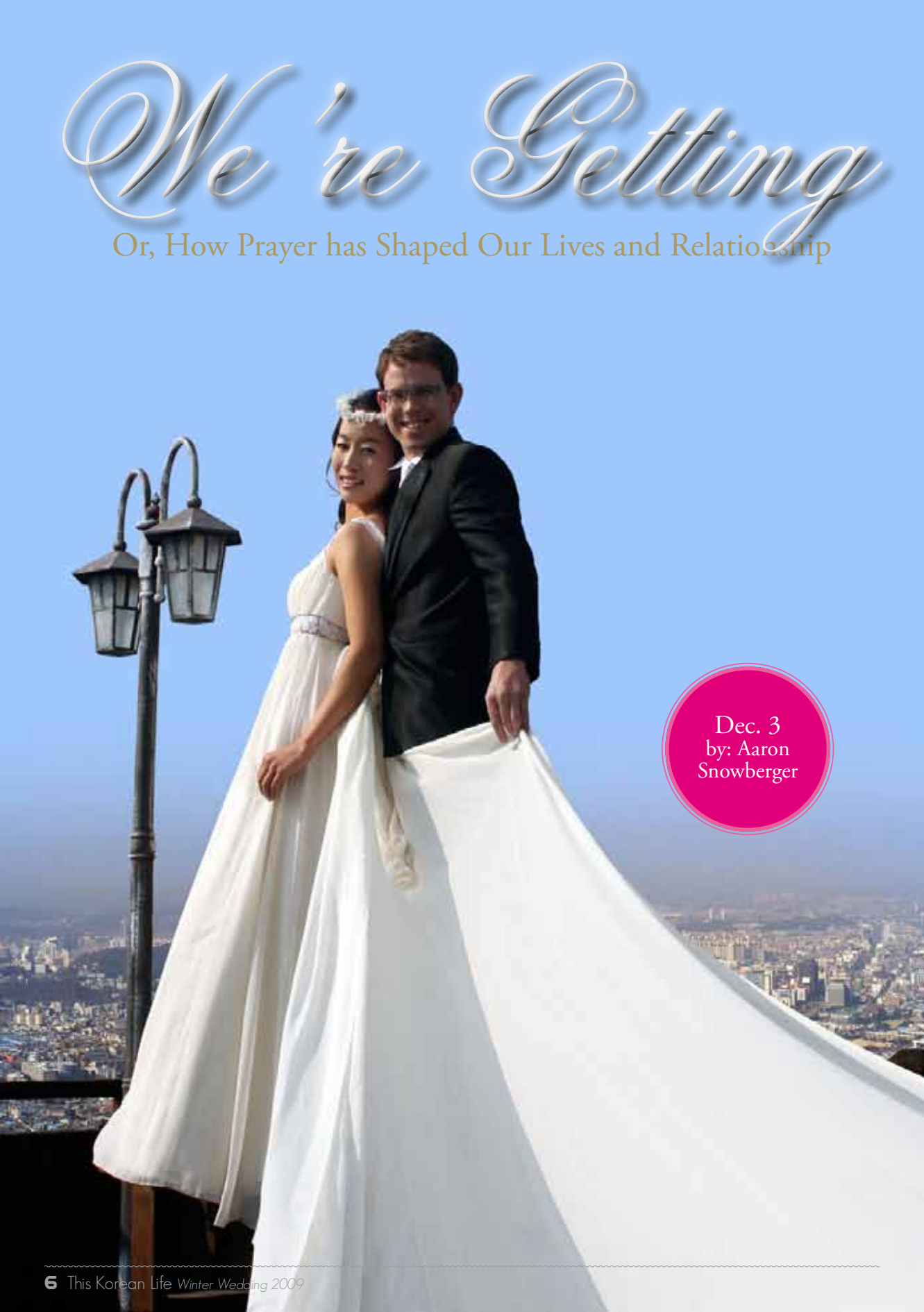
In a symbolic cutting of the wedding cake, the couple may jointly hold a cake knife and cut the first pieces of the cake, which they feed to each other.



If dancing is offered, the newlyweds first dance together briefly. Often another dance follows, wherein each dances next with a parent.

# We're Getting

Or, How Prayer has Shaped Our Lives and Relationship



Dec. 3  
by: Aaron  
Snowberger

# Married!

## MEET THE PARENTS

In the West, meeting the parents isn't really considered a *huge* deal (as far as I know). Many of my friends have brought home their boyfriends or girlfriends for a casual weekend and introduced them to their parents. Sometimes, those boyfriends or girlfriends were even different the following month.

However, in Korea, meeting the parents is a *big deal*. That kind of thing only happens when the dating couple is ready to get married. Therefore, it was nearly a year and a half after the start of our dating before I finally met Sarah's parents.

Additionally, in Korea, a marriage is viewed as a joining of two families more than a joining of two individuals. We also talk about that in the West, but in Korea, they really act it out. Therefore, the family often plays a huge role in helping a single person decide whether or not to marry a certain individual. And plenty of couples have broken up or delayed their marriages for years because of the negative reactions of their families to their significant other. In the West, although parents and family may sometimes react negatively toward one's love interest, the individual generally decides for themselves whether or not to marry, regardless of their parents input.

We (I) knew these kinds of challenges would come up in our relationship from the beginning. Add that to the fact that I'm not a Korean and don't speak Korean fluently, and we had a recipe for trouble. Therefore, I knew it was important, if I was serious about Sarah, to *be* serious about her from the start.

## BUT...PRAY, FIRST

When difficult times came up in our relationship, I did my best to be a rock: unmoving in my devotion, with eyes (and hope) to the future. Even through the hardest of times, when we were on the edge of breakup, we clung to each other and held on. She wanted me to give her hope and confidence in our relationship and future, and I did my best to do so. But sometimes, even the very best I could offer wasn't enough. So, I had to give her more to hope in than just me.

Prayer became a cornerstone and defining aspect of our relationship, and as our prayer deepened, our relationship deepened as well. As our relationship deepened, our prayers deepened all the more, going beyond casual prayers and deep into soul-aching, heart-melting prayers and hopes.

So, it should come as no surprise that my first meeting with Sarah's parents was preceded by months of prayer. In fact, I prayed nightly for them for a month before we met - a habit I'd picked up from my first courting of Sarah (it took three months of nightly prayers before she agreed to be my "girlfriend").

Actually, prayer has been a habit of ours from the very beginning of our relationship. From the first time Sarah agreed to have dinner with me, even before she'd agree to be my "girlfriend," we've prayed together. Walking home that first night, I knew she was Christian and found great value in God, so I was inspired to suggest a simple prayer together before bed. And from that day on, our every day has been bathed in prayer - with some amazing results.

## HOUSE PROBLEMS

In Korea, it is not uncommon for tenants of apartments, or even one-room Villas to put down a large sum of money as “key money” on a place to live. Sometimes, with a large enough “key money deposit,” this even exempts them from paying rent.

Sarah’s family had done that for her on a one-room near the public university. When Sarah wanted to move out, she requested the return of her key money from the building owner (as is customary, to be used as a down payment on the next house). She waited for months, but the owner kept saying “I’ll get you the money next month,” (the amount was more than the price of a new car) but the money never turned up and eventually the owner ran away with it (and with all the other tenants money as well).

That was in the Spring of 2008.

For Sarah’s first meeting with my parents, we’d originally planned to go to the US in November 2008 for my friend’s wedding in South Dakota. However, she said she didn’t feel right leaving the country with house problems, so the plans were scrapped.

In February 2009, after over a year of dating, I was getting anxious to move our relationship along and meet both sets of parents (we’d met neither by then). So, we tentatively made plans to go to the US in July to meet my folks, and prayed that her house problems would be resolved by then. It was also at that point that we began praying to meet her parents.

Finally, on Children’s Day (May 5), I met Sarah’s whole family. It was a big step that said, “We’re ready to marry.”

## HOUSE FOR SALE

As July approached, Sarah’s ownerless one-room apartment went up for auction in the court. We prayed for a quick sale that would return most of the stolen money to her parents and our prayers were answered (though with only half the money) before we left for America in July - and Sarah finally felt free to leave Korea for a while.

Unfortunately, however, with the sale of Sarah’s one-room, it also meant that she would have no new place to live in upon returning from America. Her move-out date was set for two weeks after we returned - not nearly enough time to find a new house.

So, with much prayer and hope, we journeyed to America to meet my family and let them also know “We’re ready to marry,” and arranged to move Sarah out into her sister’s house when we returned. But, there was no place for Sarah’s furniture there, so we gave most of it to her brother to use for his daughter’s room. So, Sarah and her suitcases went to her sister’s, her furniture to her brother’s, and her books and dishes to my place.

Within a matter of a few months, we had gone from a couple who was “ready” to get married and had met both sets of parents, to a couple that had no house, no furniture, no car, and no career jobs (we both had jobs at a private English academy, but many people generally view those positions as unsuitable for careers). Of course, all of those things (we lacked) are very important in Korea and are considered prerequisites for marriage by many Koreans. Time to pray.

## HEAVEN HELPED US

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”  
Matthew 5:3*

From high hopes in the early summer, to a nearly “un-marriable” position by the end of summer, we’d come full circle, and were broken and discouraged in spirit. But God didn’t disappoint us.

As we took time to pray and seek God, remarkable things happened. Though we had nothing of our own, God began to provide *His* own in ways we couldn’t predict or even imagine.

### #1: Get a (good) job

Although we have jobs at a private academy, the hours are quite late and not ideal for a newly married couple. So, before leaving for America, Sarah applied and interviewed for a public school job (which she got), and I was *just* offered a job at Jeonju University (today at 4:30).

### Wedding Prereqs

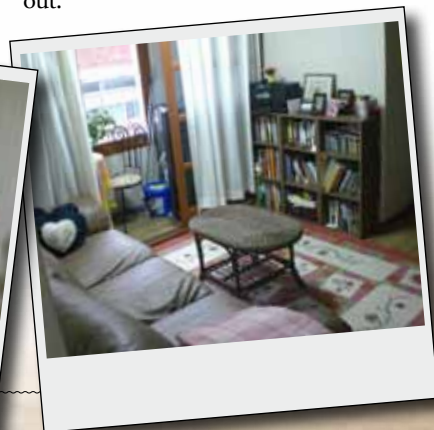
1. Get a (good) job
2. Buy a house
3. Furnish the house
4. Get a car
5. Marriage \$
6. Parental Consent
7. Set the Date

### #2: Buy a house

With Sarah houseless for over a month, we were both getting anxious. One day, on an impulse, we checked with an agent we know and he showed us a wonderful two-room that was available *the very next day*. With a little help from my parents, we signed the contract.

### #3: Furnish the house

Earlier *the same* morning we met with the agent, we also met a man who worked for a US helicopter company in Korea. Their contract was up and they were trying to sell off an apartment full of furniture. He gave me an unbelievable deal on the lot of it, and I cleaned him out.



#### #4: Get a car

While a car would be nice to have, in Korea it is not as much a necessity as in America. The public transportation system is amazingly efficient and cheap, and I prefer riding my bike to driving anyway. Even still, we will need a car sooner or later, (at least to visit her parents more often) so we have been praying for God's provision in a car.

Our house and furniture are by far the two most significant blessings we've received. There is no doubt that God's hand was in it all. After returning from America, our finances were drained from our purchase of new airline tickets, and Sarah became homeless shortly thereafter. One month (and many prayers later) we found ourselves in possession of a full set of furniture and a new house to put it all in.

#### #5: Marriage \$

Due to our ticketing issues (and then reissues) in the airport in LA, I spent much of the money I'd saved for our (potentially upcoming) honeymoon just to return us to Korea. Most of the rest of the money I'd earned in Korea has gone off to pay student loans. Thankfully, Sarah's old house sold so that we could use some of that money. Sarah has also been saving since last January, so we will have money available next January after the wedding.

#### #6: Parental Consent

Although my family gave their permission for our marriage after our trip to America, Sarah's family was a lot harder to win over. In fact, I expected it to be a long battle for their blessing after we returned, but was very surprised when *her family* brought up the topic of our marriage before we did. The first weekend back, we visited their home and they asked, "So, when are you getting married?" Her father and brother then started to talk about an appropriate date.

#### #7: Set the Date

One of the most challenging things was arranging the date for the wedding because my family lives in America, and needs at least a week away to come here to see the wedding. Sarah's family

didn't want to wait until 2010, and my family couldn't make it to Korea until after December 12. Finally, we decided December 19 would be best to accommodate both.

### THE LAST WORD

*"Prayer moves the hand that moves the world."* - John Aikman Wallace

I am a firm believer in the power of prayer. All our relationship has been bathed in prayer, without which we wouldn't be where we are today. We pray big prayers, not because we expect it all, but so that we can rejoice in God's grace and provision. As Phillip Brooks says:

*"Pray the largest prayers! You cannot think a prayer so large that God, in answering it, will not wish you had made it larger. Pray not for crutches, but for wings."*





# Honeymoon at Hong Kong Harbor

Dec 3, Aaron Snowberger

A honeymoon at Hong Kong Harbor has been a dream of mine for many years. Hong Kong is where a lot changed for me, and I'd always dreamt of spending my honeymoon there with my sweet someone (though I'd jokingly declared I'd have my wedding ceremony in mid-air while skydiving over the harbor before landing in a fancy decorated hotel garden for the reception).

Two and a half years ago, September 2007, when I was changing schools in Korea, I needed to leave the country in order to get a new visa. So, I asked my school to send me to Hong Kong - it was close, and I'd always wanted to go there.

Before going, Sarah and I had already gone on our "first date" to a movie: Die Hard 4.0, but it hadn't turned out very well. In fact, though we worked in the same school, sat at side-by-side desks, and went to the same church, I was convinced that she was avoiding me, so I decided to ignore her.

Going to Hong Kong the first time for me was an escape. I was ready to put Sarah, our failed "first date" and my own old life

behind me. It was at Hong Kong that I first started growing my goatee - a change on the outside I hoped would reflect a change on the inside as well.

But after coming back to Korea, life didn't really change much for me. It wasn't until our group trip to Jeju island, and my baptism in church that things really started to change for me. (But you can read that whole story in our Summer 2009 Magazine at [www.thiskoreanlife.com](http://www.thiskoreanlife.com))

Fast forward to today, after two years of dating and now our upcoming marriage.

Hong Kong was the place a new chapter of my life began - how appropriate for it to be the place another new chapter begins. And

check out some of the pictures on this page. H o n g K o n g is stunning.

Additionally, with much prayer, God has already shown Himself faithful to us in the planning and preparation of our honeymoon. We have already seen how He has planned so many things for our lives before we even knew the path our lives would take.

## The Plane Tickets

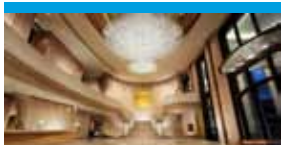
When we had our ticket trouble in the LA airport, neither of us expected any good to come of it. But the money we spent for additional tickets there was almost completely refunded to us and paid the total cost of our hotel for 5 nights, and all of Sarah's round-trip plane ticket. My plane ticket was the only thing we paid for out of pocket.

## The Hotel

Our hotel is amazing. A brand new, 5-star hotel, located at the center of Hong Kong Harbor, with every room enjoying a harbor view. Since it was opened in June 2009, it is still in the early phases of use and room rates were slashed in half until 2010 (but we didn't pay for it directly anyway).

## The Season

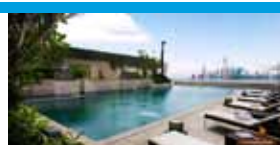
Christmas Honeymoon in Hong Kong! Hong Kong is a great Christmas destination with tons of decorations and sales celebrating the holiday. Many Chinese people journey there just for the shopping at Christmas time. Additionally, while Singapore will be experiencing monsoons, Hong Kong will be enjoying some of its best (albeit cold) weather all year (and still warmer than Korea!).



Hotel Lobby -



Lobby Lounge -



Swimming Pool -



Le 188 Restaurant -

# 5 Kinds of Love

## What is LOVE?

Nov. 25 Aaron Snowberger

Recently, Sarah and I have been doing a morning study about marriage from a Christian perspective. When one gets married, difficult questions inevitably arise such as: How do we deal with conflicts? What happens on bad days when we don't feel like we love each other? And "what is love" for that matter?

No one enters into a marriage with the goal of conflicts in mind. So, I was pleasantly surprised with the 5 Greek loves we studied, and how understanding them will help deepen our relationship.

### Epithumia (Desire)

Epithumia is the first kind of Greek love we studied and it refers to physical and sexual desire for the beloved.

If epithumia goes unchecked, it can lead to lust, adultery, affairs, and sexual perversions. It can become a very selfish kind of love, that seeks its own needs first while throwing out the needs of others.

However, in the right context and with the right balance, epithumia is the proper kind of physical love that husbands and wives express in their marital relationship.

Ultimately, it is epithumia that is responsible for the pleasure and procreation of the sexual relationship.

### Eros (Emotional)

Eros is oft confused as sexual love, but rather it is emotional in nature and is more like infatuation for the beloved.

In Greek literature, eros is the love of Venus, the goddess of love, and eros can also be seen in history as a very powerful emotional love for lovers. Romeo and Juliet is a good example of eros in action.

Many couples report a loss of the "loving feeling" (i.e. eros) they once had for one another after a few years of marriage and it is probably the loss of eros that leads to divorce for emotional reasons ("We don't love each other anymore.").

As it is emotional, eros can't be controlled or willed into being.

### Storge (Family)

Storge is the love of comfort, safety and security that is present and felt within a family.

The right amount of storge love offers a refuge for members of the family from the dangers and stresses of the outside world, in business and school.

However, if left unchecked, too much storge could offer so much security and protection from the outside world that members of the family may not want to leave and go out into the difficult "real world."

But, not enough storge can lead to internal conflicts. Rather than being a source of comfort, too little storge may add more stress.

### Phileo (Friends)

Phileo is the love that is shared between friends, and can be witnessed through things like shared passions, interests, hobbies, and an enjoyment of the time spent together.

Phileo love is just as essential within a marriage as it is outside a marriage. Couples generally want to marry their best friend, and without some kind of mutual friendship and shared interests, additional conflicts are sure to arise.

However, too much phileo love can lead to isolation within the relationship, and an "us-versus-them" mentality. This can make it difficult to relate to others on an individual level or as a couple.

### Agape (God's)

Agape is God's own sacrificial love. This is the love that God showed when He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins.

This is the only love of the 5 that is not completely natural to people because it is the only love that is sacrificial in nature.

No other love chooses to put the needs of the other person ahead of one's own needs. And that is also a key: love is a *choice*, not an emotion.

When people treat love strictly as emotional, is it any wonder that divorce is so prevalent today? Emotions go up and down, but agape love *chooses* to love whether emotions are high or not.

Additionally, all the other loves depend on agape.

Much as a gardener cares for his garden and weeds out the bad plants, so agape love, the "greatest of all" loves, cares for all the other loves and keeps them in check. Agape love maintains a proper balance between all the other loves and weeds out the excess.

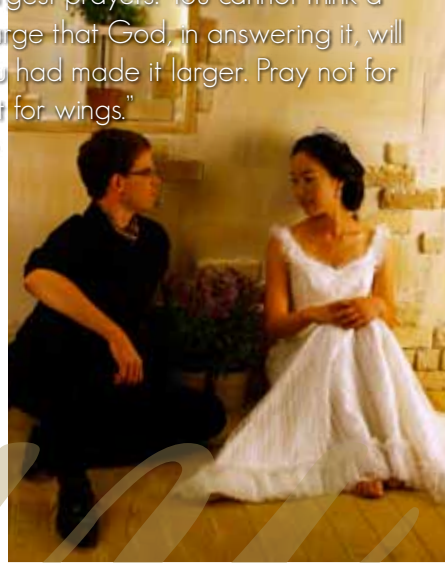
Here is love: unconditional, always present, never changing; agape love - God's love.



"Pray, and let God worry."  
- Martin Luther

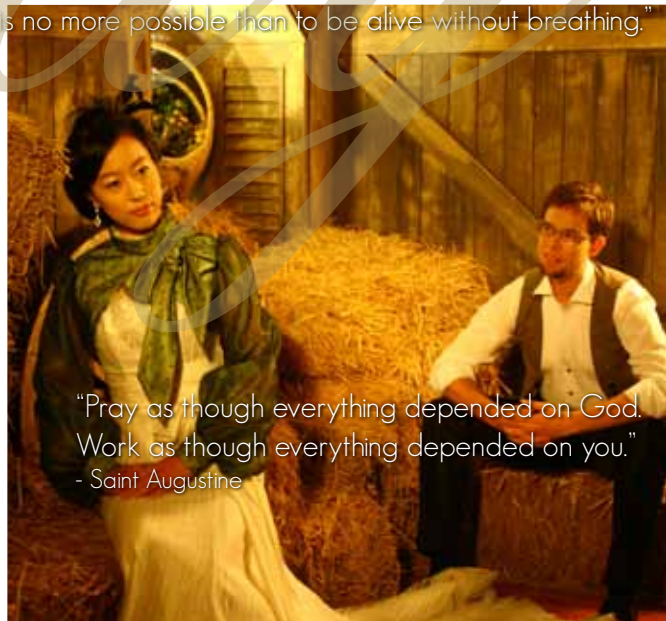


"Pray the largest prayers! You cannot think a prayer so large that God, in answering it, will not wish you had made it larger. Pray not for crutches, but for wings."  
- Phillip Brooks



"Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart."  
- Mahatma Gandhi

"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."  
- Martin Luther King, Jr.



"Prayer puts you in touch with the infinite and prepares your mind for the finite."  
- Peter Daniel

"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."  
- Saint Augustine

"Prayer moves the hand that moves the world."  
- John Aikman Wallace



"The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays."  
- Soren Kierkegaard



Wedding Photos courtesy of Georgia Bryant

Don't forget to check out our website:  
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