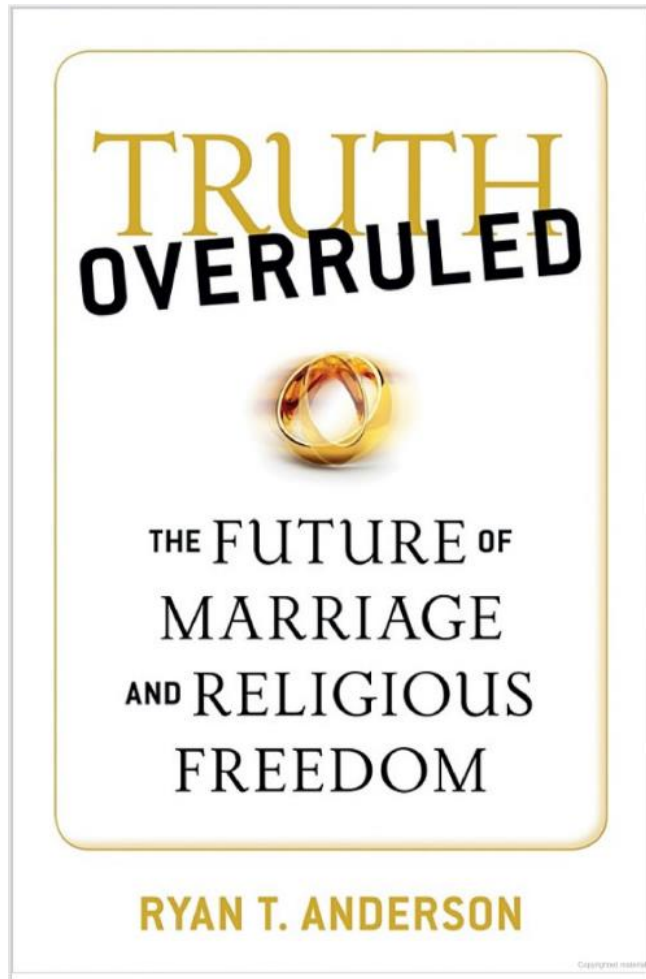


Two excerpts read by Dr. Farrar from “Truth Overruled: The Future of Marriage and Religious Freedom” By Ryan T. Anderson



The “Consent-Based” View of Marriage

The consent-based view of marriage is primarily about an intense emotional union—a romantic, caregiving union of consenting adults. It’s what the philosopher John Corvino describes as the relationship that establishes your “number one person.”⁴ What sets marriage apart from other relationships is the priority of the relationship. It’s your most important relationship; the most intense emotional, romantic union; the caregiving relationship that takes priority over all others. Andrew Sullivan says that marriage has become “primarily a way in which two adults affirm their emotional commitment to one another.”⁵ And as we will see in [chapter 3](#), *this* vision of what marriage is does all of the work in Justice Anthony Kennedy’s majority opinion in *Obergefell*.

The Comprehensive View of Marriage

Someone who wants to explain what marriage is has the difficult task of explaining something that every one of our grandparents simply took for granted, that everyone two generations ago thought was common knowledge—that marriage is a permanent, exclusive union of husband and wife. Much of human wisdom is tacit knowledge. Only when it is attacked does it need a formal, explicit defense. Explaining why marriage is the union of a man and a woman is like explaining why wheels are round, but it has to be done. That means going back to first principles, and there’s no better guide to first principles than Aristotle.