



# Marriage Rules<sup>©</sup>

## “WEDDING RINGS”

By: Larry B. Gelman, Psy. D.

As an unending circle, the wedding ring is an immediately recognizable universal symbol of eternal love, fidelity and devotion and publicly signifies the expressed and implied commitments of two people to one another in the institution of marriage.

Although a wedding ring can be composed of or forged from many different materials, frequently, it is made of different “karats” of gold which, in its purest form, is twenty-four karats (24k). However, pure gold is too soft to endure the life of most marriages.

Interestingly, in order to permanently strengthen a pure 24k gold ring, another impure metal (or several metals) are added resulting in an alloy being formed. The ironic and paradoxical “marriage” of that which is pure with that which is impure typically will result in a wedding ring with the characterological hardness to last indefinitely.

The moral is clear: however untainted love may be in the beginning, for it to continue evermore, it must find a way to navigate and integrate “the good, the bad and the ugly” of that which is pure with that which is impure into its very core, soul and fiber of its being.

Dr. Larry B. Gelman is a licensed Clinical Psychologist at Northern Illinois Counseling Associates, P.C. (NICA) located in downtown Crystal Lake, Illinois.

For inquiries regarding psychological services, call: **1-815-455-6736** or email: [info@nicapc.com](mailto:info@nicapc.com). For a more complete description of all of NICA’s professional services, visit our website at: [www.nicapc.com](http://www.nicapc.com).

Copyright © 2012, 1999 Northern Illinois Counseling Associates, P.C. (NICA). All Rights Reserved.

No portion of this document may be copied or used by anyone without the express written permission of the copyright owner.

