

John Cuber and Peggy Harroff's 5 Types of Marriage

- 1) **Devitalized:** Marriage begins with passionate love but slowly fizzles into a growing separation (i.e., achieved intimacy fails to develop as with companionate love)
- 2) **Conflict-habituated:** Marriage is stable but conflict is normal, marital disagreements become the form of marital communication, and marital tension is high. (e.g., "Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf" Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor)
- 3) **Passive-Congenial:** Marriage that never even began with passionate love but which is stable nonetheless exhibiting little or no marital conflict where the marital relationship is one of mutual convenience and passivity of emotion prevails
- 4) **Vital:** Marriage is in which there is genuine togetherness and basically what may be described as companionate love
- 5) **Total:** Marriage here resembles the vital marriage but in addition to those qualities the husband and wife virtually share everything and have no private existence apart from one another.