

Lists of Imago Research in Korea

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Impact of Childhood Wounds on Couple Relationship

Jea-Eun Oh

The primary aim of the study is to explore the impact of childhood wounds on couples relationship, that is, how each partner gets through certain developmental stages in his or her early life effect their couple relationship. Specific aim is to describe childhood wounds by developmental stages and couples' relationships. According to Erik Erikson (1950, 1959, 1964, 1968, 1982, 1986), each child's developmental and dependent needs must be fulfilled by caretakers in ways appropriate to the child's developmental stage for sake of healthy development and growth. If at any stage a child's needs are left un-met, he or she will unconsciously attempt to fulfill those needs autonomously. IMAGO relationship therapy (Hendrix, 1988, 1992, 1996) suggests that each individual is unconsciously driven by his or her un-met needs (called childhood wounds) and expects to be fulfilled by his or her partner. Childhood wounds play a pivotal role in both mate selection and in relationship conflict (Brown 1999; Luquet, 1996; Luquet & Hannah 1998; Hendrix, 1988, 1992, 1996). Recently, the divorce rate has greatly increased in Korea, where I work as a professor and counselor. The Korean rate of divorce now ranks highest in the world, and couples in crisis are prevalent. In the face of rising need, the availability of professional counseling institutions in Korea, including government, schools, and religion, appear similarly ill-equipped to respond supportively to this growing problem, the case makes itself that Korea needs more and better prepared counselors and educators. During my experience in teaching and counseling practice, including with couples in conflict, it became abundantly clear to me that people similarly marked by childhood wounds tend to attract and to inflict fresh wounds upon each other. In counseling, my main inquiry has been what a critical factor in couple's relationship and how to help the couples in crisis to maintain a healthy and supportive relationship. After much study, I have become convinced that each individual's childhood wounds and unmet needs are likely to figure prominently in any future intimate relationship the person enters (Bradshaw 1990b; Hendrix, 1988). The echoes of childhood wounds manifest themselves through attraction to person wounded similarly, or at a like stage, during the formative years. Childhood wounds go to the heart of most conflicts (Abrams, 1990; Bradshaw 1990a, 1990b; Capacchione, 1991 Freud 1959a, 1959b, 1959c; Missildine, 1963; Whitfield, 1987) and power struggles that couples experience, and healing childhood wounds is key to resolving conflicts in adult relationship. Therefore, to offer real healing, therapists must be prepared to help counselees understand and cope with childhood wounds. Such insight would lend the counselee indispensable understanding of both self and partner. Merely discerning childhood wounds could be a starting point toward self-growth that enriches one's adult relationships. The results of the study will suggest practical applications to couples therapy.

Keywords: childhood wounds, inner, child healing, IMAGO couple relationship, therapy

Doctorate thesis 2009

PhD Thesis

The impact of Psychosocial Development and Attachment Styles on Subsequent Partner Selection and Marital Satisfaction in South Korea

Jea-Eun Oh

This study explores the impact of the psychosocial development and attachment styles of individuals on subsequent partner selection and marital satisfaction. A sample of 100 cohabiting Korean married couples (N=200) and 100 couples planning to marry (N=200) were collected via convenience sampling. Data were assessed using four psychological measures consisting of 162 questions. Our Findings indicate that similarities exist between partners in partner selection in both married and planning to marry couples in terms of psychosocial development and attachment styles. When couples match in terms of the psychosocial tasks of development, there is a significant relationship to subsequent marital satisfaction and marital crisis. Likewise, attachment-matching couples are associated with higher psychosocial development, higher marital satisfaction, and lower rates of marital crisis. There were significant differences observed between the husband and wife's marital satisfaction and marital crisis across the husband's attachment styles. These results have clear and practical implications for marital counseling both theory and practice.

Keywords: psychosocial development, attachment style, partner selection, marital satisfaction, marital crisis

Journal of Family Psychotherapy

Psychosocial Development in South Korean Couples
and Its Effects on Marital Relationships

Jea-Eun Oh

This study explored psychosocial development in South Korean couples and its impact on their marital satisfaction and marital crisis. A sample of 100 cohabiting married Korean couples (N=200) and 100 pre-marital couples (N=200) participated in this study. Findings showed that partners in same-couple relationships were more likely to reach the same stages of psychosocial development. Married couples displayed different levels of marital satisfaction and marital crisis depending on which stage of psychosocial development they found themselves in. The results of this study also revealed that partners who successfully resolved psychosocial developmental tasks and conflicts had higher marital satisfaction and lower marital crisis. Implications for practice and future research are discussed.

Keywords: psychosocial development, Imago Relationship Therapy, marital satisfaction, marital crisis, partner selection, Korean couples

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A Phenomenological Study on the Change in Spouse Image and Perception
of Childhood Wounds Through Imago Relationship Therapy

Jea-Eun Oh, Bok-Soo Byun

The purpose of this qualitative study was to examine how the participants who had Imago couple relationship therapy changed in their views of their childhood wounds and their image of their spouse. Using van Manen's analysis with data from 6 participants, 486 significant units, 16 sub themes, and 5 main themes were extracted. Meanings of the change in their perceptions of their childhood wounds and their images of their spouse are discussed.

Key Words: Imago couple relationship therapy, childhood wounds, couple conflict, reconstructing the image of spouse.

This article based on her master thesis.

The Phenomenological Study on Experience of Reconstructing the Image
of God in Pastoral Ministry after the Pastor's Participation
in Imago Relationship Therapy

Duck-Soo Kim

The purpose of this paper is to study on the experience of reconstructing the image of God and Pastoral ministry after the Pastor's participation in the Imago Couple Relationship Therapy by the phenomenological research method. The rapid increase in divorce rate in Korea causes many social problems such as family break down, its subsequent juvenile delinquency, suicide, increase in crime, phenomenon to avoid marriage, low birth rate, aging, and so on.

To save broken families and restore healthy couple relationship is biblical teaching and mission for churches and pastors. Therefore, the experiences of the pastors in Korean churches, looking for the alternatives for the couple problems which is the core of family crisis were studied. Pastors participated in the Imago Couple Relationship therapy, today which is proven to be the best program in the worldwide couple therapy. Also, how the experiences influence their ministry and what perceptual change is there in reconstructing God's image were studied.

For this, the change in couple relationship, the influence in the ministry, and the meaning of reforming experience in God's image for six pastors who were educated according to the structured manual by internationally certified Imago Couple Relationship professional were investigated and conceptualized on the basis of interview, voice recording, e-mail, and non-verbal expression during the interview. In order to introduce the theoretical background of couple therapy, internationally widely known leading models of couple therapy were examined comparing with Imago Couple Relationship therapy model, and the characteristics of Imago Couple Relationship therapy and its need were looked into.

As a result of the phenomenological research, the experiences in Imago Couple Relationship therapy were categorized into 6 following subjects:

1. Unfinished Business(unhealed childhood wounds) from relational experience in original family influences the causes of the meeting of couples and their conflict.
2. What is important in couple relationship is not character but their relationship.
3. What is important in ministry is family ministry and restoration of couples.
4. Imago Couple Relationship education is integral and biblical.
5. Human begins and God are relational begins.
6. Restoration of couples through Imago Couple Relationship education experience reforms God's image.

From the result of this study, it was found that formation of pastoral couple relationship is very important and especially its contents greatly affect reformation of God's image.

There is a problem in couples in the core of the causes of the collapse.

Problems in couples are the source of all family problems. The fundamental solution to save families and society is to restore the healthy couple relationship.

The responsibility to carry out this great mission is in church. After God creates world, lastly He made men in His image and made a couple as family. It is God's plan to bless men through family and to build the kingdom of God through family.

Therefore, this research is to inspire the responsibility of church: for pastors to restore their own couple relationship first and make all the families on the earth as well as their congregation healthy. For this, this researcher would like to study the meaningful experiences of the pastors who participated in the biblical and integrated Imago Couple Relationship Therapy developed by Dr. Harville Hendrix and conceptualize them using phenomenological research method.

Journal of Family and Counseling

2011, Vol. 1, No. 2, 1-22

A Literature Review on the Superiority of the Imago Marital Relation Therapy in Treating Couples

Duck-Soo Kim

We are living in the age of an overall crisis. A crisis is indicated in areas including the country, politics, society, economy, and church. This crisis is concretely shown through wars, suicide, addiction, diseases, crimes, poverty, unemployment and so forth. A fundamental cause of the whole crisis, however, is the crisis of family and it is the crisis of marital relationships. I assure that all the societal problems stems from marital issues. The basic unit of society is the family, and at the center of the family there is a couple. The current divorce rate of this country ranks the highest among OECD countries and the collapse of families has reached a serious level. Consequently, while adolescents' happiness index has been ranked the lowest for the recent three years, issues such as runaway, crimes, suicide, youth unemployment, and a phenomenon of avoiding marriage became both societal and national concerns. In the present situation of Korea, a variety of couples therapy models including those that are popular in other countries have been introduced and disseminated through academic works and scientific articles. However, most of these couples therapies are limited to cognitive-behavioral approaches, or centered on problem-solving on the surface level of marital conflicts. Thus, they fall short of handling deeper issues which can be inherent in the hidden side of the problems. The present study aims at introducing the imago marital relation therapy model in the age of an overall crisis comparing it to other models. This particular therapeutic model has been globally acknowledged for its excellent clinical effect and integrative perspectives.

Key words : Imago, Marital relation therapy, Imago couple communication, Imago match

MA Thesis

The Phenomenological Study on Christian married women's Experience in the Imago Couple Relationship Therapy

Ok-Sun Lee

The purpose of this paper, Christian married women's experience in the Imago Couple Relationship Therapy is a phenomenological study. South Korea's divorce rate and family breakup and the subsequent surge in youth issues, suicide, and marriage to avoid the various crime phenomena, low birth problems, aging and many other countries and societies have caused problems. Raise the collapsed home to regain a healthy marital relationship is the teaching of the Bible. Therefore, the core of today's family crisis, marital problems and are looking for a drastic change in the church in Korea a couple consummate storyteller, marital therapy training through the Christian experience of married women coping with divorce in the marital relationship was explored whether there was any change in perception . To do this, the consummate storyteller, an internationally recognized relationship therapist couple, depending on the couple relationship from a structured manual therapists are teaching graduate students in the course of six patients in the last six months recording and transcript of an interview, email correspondence, recording feelings found expression language, gestures For records of such changes in the marital relationship, on marriage, to discover the meaning of experience was conceptualized. In addition, the theoretical background of marital therapy has been widely known at home and abroad to uncover a couple therapy models, the consummate storyteller, a typical model and comparative study of marital therapy and marital therapy consummate storyteller, has looked at the characteristics and needs. I introduction, the necessity and purpose of the study, research, and study the scope and limitations of the problem, said the definition of the term through the first chapter II theoretical understanding of the biblical understanding of their relationship by considering the couple is talking about the Bible, especially the Focused attention on the importance of family and couples therapy represents the next couple therapy model and introduces the theory and treatment of these models and their relationship to each other by comparing the consummate storyteller, Hendrix Dr. haville consummate storyteller, and the need for the core of the theory of marital therapy is to focus on . Chapter III phenomenological research as a way to explain the concept of qualitative research, phenomenological researchers, particularly qualitative research methodology, acknowledging that says why. Chapter IV research findings and experiences of the participants to conceptualize the meaning Chapter V consists of discussions and recommendations.

Marital therapy study experiencing a consummate storyteller, a phenomenological sense means 201 through understanding the concepts developed, and re-coding, where one conceptualize the 37 sub-themes were categorized into 17 and six top themes. 6 Finally, the study found the top topics were as follows.

1. Consummate storyteller, a variety of marital therapy program and a program for a motive first impression
2. Divorce, a major factor in the crisis (motivation) and the forehead after he met the divorce, change of perception

3. Marital therapy marital relationship before the consummate storyteller, part recognition of their relationship with the participants after an intense inner experience of change
4. Spouses through the consummate storyteller, marital therapy experience of the image reconstruction
5. Consummate storyteller, marital therapy and relationship change through the divorce changes in the perception of
6. Divorce, a change in the sense of crisis and coping with divorce, meaning that the couple relationship

The results of this research program, professional courses through the formation of the participants' marital relationship is very important, especially marital relationships, depending on whether the information on the impact of marriage were found to be greater

Keywords : Couple Conflict, divorce, Imago, childhood wounds, Unfinished Business, Reconstructing the Imago of Spouse, Imago Couple's Dialogue.

MA Thesis

A Qualitative Case Study on Changing Process of Expectations
upon the Spouse through Couple Relationship
in Imago Relationship Therapy

Woon-Young Baek

This study aims to investigate whether marital discord stems from discrepancies in marital expectations which derived from consciously and unconsciously inherited experiences from original family environments. It further explores how the Imago couple relationship seminar influences the changes of marital expectations and reconstruction of the shared marital expectations (couple relationship vision) among participating couples.

In order to explore effects of the Imago Couple Relationship seminar on the couple's marital expectations and perceptions, the researcher utilized the qualitative case study methodology of Stake (1983). The participants of this study were three couples (six married individuals) who participated in this seminar. Analysis of the gathered data resulted in 102 extracted meaning units in total. Those units were classified and integrated into 16, 12, and 20 low-ranking subjects in each case, and then 5 high-ranking subjects. The essential high-ranking subjects extracted from recognition of changes of disparities and agreements in marital expectations (visions) through the Imago Couple Relationship Seminar were as follows: (1) disparities between one's understanding of the spouse and the spouse's understanding of himself or herself; (2) marital discord due to differences between the couple's marital expectations; (3) marital expectations stemmed from familial experiences in the family-of-origin; (4) perception change processes in couple relationship vision; and (5) reconstruction experience in marital expectations as couple relationship vision.

Based on these results, theoretical and practical implications are discussed: First, when the participants have unresolved developmental tasks in their relationships with their parents or initial caregivers, they tend to struggle with similar tasks in their marital relationship. Second, the participants became aware of the fact that they had chosen a spouse who would create a similar marital dynamic with their parental marriage. Third, the participants were able to articulate that their marital conflicts stemmed from their different marital expectations. Finally, they experienced the increase in shared marital expectations (couple relationship vision) by recognizing and understanding each other's different views and perceptions of marriage.

Therefore, the researcher carried out the qualitative case study based on the interviews with the participating couples (three married couples) who experienced Imago Couple Relationship Therapy. As the result, participating couples in the Imago Couple Relation seminar experienced 'the process of getting to know each other,' 'the increased level of understanding of the spouse,' 'the process of accepting reality,' 'the process of moving toward shared expectations,' and 'the movement toward the couple's common visions.' Each partner's marital expectations can be transformed into the couple common visions(the shared expectations) after participating in the Imago seminar. Therefore, the couples who underwent the positive transforming experience as a couple greatly valued the Imago Couple Relationship Seminar.