

**Role Reversals**  
(from *Strike the Original Match* by Chuck Swindoll)

**A great deal of my counseling time is invested in the lives of couples planning to get married. During the three premarital counseling sessions, I probe deeply into their relationship. We discuss their lives from several perspectives: spiritually, emotionally, financially, socially, and sexually. It is not uncommon for those I plan to marry to have been intimately involved with each other. I require that this be stopped if such has been the case. Before we proceed I have each one promise me that from that day on (until they are married) they will sustain restraint and self-control in their relationship.**

**Here's why. If promiscuity is not completely stopped for a period of time before marriage, then after marriage a strange reversal in their roles occurs. The young bride marries with disappointment over the violation done against her by her fiancé. She soon becomes dominant and aggressive, taking the role of leadership from her husband because of a mixture of resentment and anger. And the man? Well, he feels, guilty, disappointed with himself, and ultimately becomes passive.**

**She takes charge (and hates it) while he backs off (and feels miserable). All because their intimate relationship was incorrectly set in motion before marriage.**

**Of the hundreds of unhappy couples I have counseled who finally admitted to premarital promiscuity, I can hardly recall an exception to this strange pattern.**