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Character of Enduring Marriage

Character of a Divorce Ethic

“The kind of character associated with enduring marriage forms a sober sense of expectations; exercises self-control; recognizes the goodness and meaning and obligations, duties, and dependencies; studies itself on habits, familiarity, and working things out; and keeps long-term, time resource-intensive goal firmly in mind as the couple navigate the difficult shoals of life. Feelings, arbitrary and capricious, take on a subordinate place in a common life, as couples come to feel more alike as they grow together. Marital character seems based on an ability to love a good and to share that love with another person.”

“The kind of character associated with a divorce ethic emphasizes the value of experimentation; individual Independence, autonomy, and self-sufficiency; a greater emphasis on adult interest as opposed to a common life or a child's interest; and, perhaps, a greater emphasis on romantic, passionate, and hence unstable love.”