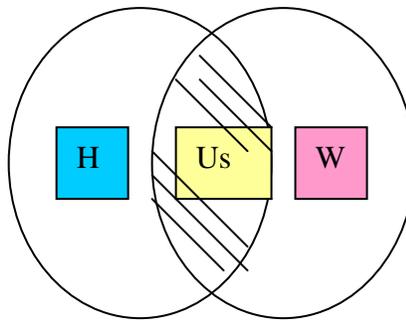


## A Definition of Marriage

Marriage is the union , the fusion , of two people in heart <sup>1</sup> , mind <sup>2</sup> , body <sup>3</sup> and spirit <sup>4</sup> ,through a covenant of love in which they commit to support each other emotionally and physically and in all matters of each other's welfare . It is the joining of two lives into one where there are common goals and shared interests as well as a sense of togetherness – of being of one mind , a team - as they move forward through Life.

Marriage is the death of selfishness leading to the birth of selflessness: that unique quality of unselfish concern for the welfare of others ; acting with less concern for one's self while endeavoring to insure the success of the joint undertaking called marriage or togetherness.

A healthy marriage creates an entity called the “Us” or the “We” , yet retains the positive qualities of personality , character and interests of each individual spouse as portrait in the figure below. Personal growth is encouraged, but never to the detriment of the shared entity - the Us.



*Rev. Ron Howard Ph.D. , ( C ) OACCPP , BCCC*

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<sup>1</sup> Our emotional Being

<sup>2</sup> Our seat of consciousness and conscience

<sup>3</sup> Our physical Being

<sup>4</sup> The essence of life, that sense of being alive, having a zest for life , the sense of being connected to each other at a deep , intimate, personal level as well as being connected to something universal in nature. ( Or spirit being that essence of life , a that sense of being alive, having a zest for life , and the sense of being connected to each other at deep , intimate, personal level as well as being connected to something universal in scope )