

From the Bestselling author of  
*A Setback Is A Setup For A Comeback!*

*Make*  
**LOVE,**

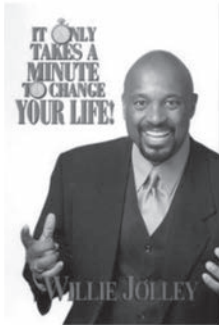
*Make*  
**MONEY,**

*Make*  
**IT LAST!**

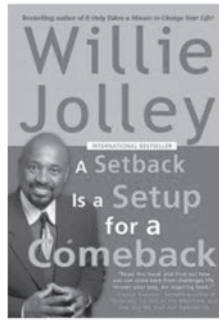
**10 SECRETS TO SHAPE  
A GREAT MARRIAGE!**



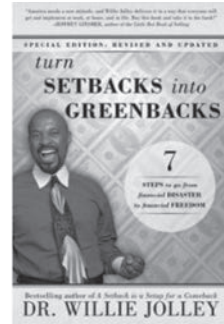
## OTHER BOOKS BY DR. WILLIE JOLLEY



It Only Takes A Minute  
To Change Your Life!



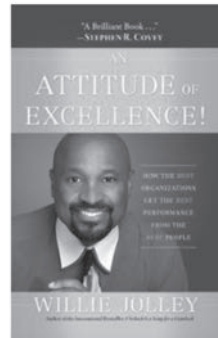
A Setback Is A Setup  
For A Comeback



Turn Setbacks Into  
Greenbacks



Money Making  
Music and  
Motivation:  
The Music Book



Achieve Greatness...  
With An Attitude  
of Excellence

Copyright ©2017 by Dr. Willie Jolley

All rights reserved.

Published in the United States  
by Jolley Life Publishing.

All trademarks are the property of their respective companies.

ISBN: Print Book - 978-0-9992731-0-4

PROUDLY PRINTED IN  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
By Selby Marketing Associates

SPECIAL SALES

Willie Jolley Books are available at a  
special discount for bulk purchases for  
sales promotions and premiums.

For more details email: [info@williejolley.com](mailto:info@williejolley.com)

*This book is dedicated to our parents,  
Rev. Rivers S. Taylor, Sr. and First Lady, Lillie Mae Taylor  
and Levi H. Jolley and Catherine B. Jolley for their  
wonderful examples of marriage for us to model.*



# Contents

Gratitude & Acknowledgments .....	1
Foreword .....	5
Let's Start with Why .....	7
Chapter 1 Friends First .....	15
Chapter 2 Make God an Equal Part in Your Marriage .....	25
Chapter 3 Decide to Make It Last .....	35
Chapter 4 Communicate! Talk to Each Other .....	49
Chapter 5 Leave the Drama with Your Mama! .....	67
Chapter 6 Agree about Disagreeing. ....	77
Chapter 7 How to Handle a Stalemate. ....	83
Chapter 8 Sex, Headaches, and Other Lies. ....	95
Chapter 9 Always Date Your Mate .....	109
Chapter 10 Count the Costs: Money Matters .....	121
*Special Section – Message For Singles:	
How To Choose The Right Person To Marry! .....	133
Lyrics from “Little Things” .....	143
Final Thoughts .....	145





# Let's Start with Why

Dee and I wrote this book to help couples create great married lives. We want couples to enjoy the state of being married just as much as we do. If you want more fun and less drama, more sweet talk and less arguing, more romance and less distance, then this book is for you. We want you to make love, make money, and make it last!

Often, we are asked by those who've met our son, William, "Is it true what he's told us—that you have not had an argument in over thirty years?" "Yes, it's true," we tell them. Plus, we're together about twenty hours a day! We work together, travel together, play together, and pray together! We've learned how to stay happily married, and we are excited to share what we've learned and what works for us. We believe it will work for you as well.

While at a dinner party, a friend mentioned he had heard me on my Sirius XM Radio show talking about tips from our new marriage book, and he was really intrigued by the ten points I shared. While he was talking, our conversation was interrupted by a lady who was standing next to us. She said she was having marital issues herself and wanted to know more about the concepts we discussed in our book. When I told her that the main points were listed on the pre-release information on my website, she was not satisfied. She begged me to share the points. She said she was desperate and needed that information right then. So I gave her the "Reader's Digest" version of the book.

## MAKE LOVE, MAKE MONEY, MAKE IT LAST!

You might be in a similar place, where you need the main points immediately. Or you might be getting ready to get married and want advice right now, before you say I do!

Here are the ten points we recommend:

1. **Friends first.** Be or become friends, because it's hard to have long-lasting love or a long-lasting marriage with someone you don't really like.
2. **Make God an equal part of your marriage.** In fact, make Him the majority part of the marriage.
3. **Decide to make it last!** Love is an emotion, but marriage is a decision.
4. **Communicate! Talk to each other.** Your mate is not a mind reader.
5. **Leave the drama with your mama!** Never stir up emotions to create confusion.
6. **Agree on how you will disagree** before challenging situations arise.
7. **Learn how to manage a stalemate** - how to break a tie.
8. **Sex, headaches, and other lies:** the truth about sex versus intimacy.
9. **Always date your mate.**
10. **Count the costs! Money matters.** Marriage is not just a love relationship, it is a business relationship as well.

The question has been asked, who is this book for? It is for anyone presently in a relationship—currently married, dating—as well as those looking to get into a successful relationship that leads to marriage. If you are presently married and doing fine, then you will enjoy the stories, ideas, and principles presented in this book. If you are married and having some challenges or serious problems, you NEED to read this book and practice our advice. And finally, if you are single and interested in finding the right person to marry, you MUST read this book before you make any decisions.

## LET'S START WITH WHY

This book is written with a goal of informing, instructing, inspiring, and empowering people to have better relationships, and to enjoy the marriage journey with more commitment and excitement.

We believe your home should be your castle and sanctuary, where the husband and wife make up the royal family. This is a place where the husband is treated like the king of the castle and the wife is treated like a queen and placed on a pedestal.

Unfortunately, far too often we hear stories where the home is a war zone, and the enemies are the married people who live within the house! They get so caught up in winning their individual skirmishes that they lose the bigger prize of a happily married relationship. If you want your home to be your castle and not a war zone, keep reading.





## CHAPTER SIX



# Agree about Disagreeing

*“In every disagreement in marriage,  
remember this one important truth—  
my spouse is my partner not my enemy.  
We will either win together or we will lose together.”*  
~ Dave Willis

### **WILLIE'S PERSPECTIVE**

In every relationship, you will have times when you won't agree. Those are delicate times when relationships can be hurt, and, if not handled well, they can even be broken. This is why it's wise to decide ahead of time on the rules of engagement regarding how you will handle those moments when you disagree.

As two individuals coming together to create one couple, there is a good chance that the two of you will eventually disagree about something. We recommend you talk about how you will disagree in advance. It may sound strange to talk about disagreements before they even happen, but if you plan out how to handle disagreements before they occur, you have a better chance of finding common ground during those challenging times. You can even respectfully agree to disagree!

We have discovered it is better to set boundaries on the front end than to try and fix a broken relationship on the back end. To do this, we

recommend you sit down with your spouse and discuss what you both deem to be fighting fair. Now, to be clear, we use the word fight figuratively. When you don't fight fair, you might win the small battle, but you will lose the real victory—being happily married! The things you want to discuss are the acceptable and unacceptable words and behaviors during a disagreement, and what items are “below the belt” (for example, talking about his mama or her family).

When you are deciding on your rules of engagement, you should each put an equal number of issues on the table. If the husband has two issues, so should the wife, and vice versa. Talk about how the below-the-belt issue (or issues) makes you feel, and why it's important to you. The other person must listen with empathy and not become defensive. It's important to keep in mind that you can never dispute the feelings of another person. You might not agree, but these are still their feelings. Therefore, you must respect their feelings and then honor them by enacting new behaviors based on the rules you each have agreed to. You might not agree with the way your spouse feels, but you have to respect the feelings of that individual; respect how they say the disagreement made them feel. Once you agree on a system, you must honor the agreement.

We can honestly say that by practicing this behavior, we have not had an argument in over thirty years. Once we established our rules of engagement, we never crossed each other's lines. But it was not always this way. In fact, our first big argument was almost the end of our marriage, and it happened because of Chinese food.

Here's what happened. Dee and I had been married a few months and her brother and his wife were coming to visit. We decided to get Chinese takeout for dinner and stopped at a restaurant in D.C.'s Chinatown neighborhood. It had been one of my favorite places to get food when I was single. I knew their entrees well, so I picked out four dishes I thought would be good for dinner. Dee said that we needed to order more dishes, but I told her four large dishes from this restaurant would be more than enough for six people. She said she didn't want to run out of food and be

embarrassed. I assured her that this restaurant was known for its large portions, and I expressed to her again that four large dishes would be more than enough. However, she was not persuaded and insisted that we order more. I told her we would waste food and, worse, waste money if we ordered more.

We went back and forth on this issue, and the argument got more and more intense. I got louder and she got more insistent. It continued until I was hollering. Once I started hollering, she put her finger in my face and said, “I will not have you, or anyone else, hollering at me! My daddy never raised his voice to me, my brother never hollered at me, and neither will you! I WILL LEAVE YOU!”

In that moment, I realized we were on our way to a bad ending and potentially a broken marriage. We had to stop and regroup. I took a breath and told Dee we needed to dial it back and get some clarity on this situation. We realized we were both out of control and needed to calm ourselves so we could get this situation settled. We didn’t just need to settle the amount of food we should order, but, more importantly, we needed to develop a system for handling disagreements in our marriage.

I decided to purchase whatever she wanted; then we went home and had family dinner with her brother, his wife and the rest of our family. That evening, when we were alone, we talked about what had happened, and how we could keep it from ever happening again. Dee said she could not accept anyone hollering at her, especially her husband, and I said I could not stand her threatening to leave me.

We came up with some simple guidelines for how we would handle our disagreements. We call them our “rules of engagement.” I promised I would not raise my voice when we disagreed, and she promised she would never threaten to leave me. Plus, we agreed to always be respectful of each other, especially when we are working through our differences of opinion. We made that agreement that night, and we’ve kept that promise. As a result, we have not had an argument in over thirty years.



Please do not think this means we have not disagreed with each other. We have disagreed about many things, but we have a system in place that allows us to come to an agreement without arguing.

One of the primary ways we avoid arguments is by never breaking the promise to abide by the agreement. You must keep your word! Earlier we shared the story of a couple with marital problems. The wife had separation anxiety issues, because her father had left the family when she was a child. During disagreements, the husband would threaten to leave, because he knew this was her weak spot. Over dinner he promised to never do that again. He broke his promise, and they ended up divorced.

I share this story again because it contrasts with our story. Dee and I agreed on the rules of engagement and made a commitment to never, ever renege on that commitment. We've kept our promises to each other for over thirty years, and we have been able to stay happily married.

Our friend, John Morgan (the number-one George W. Bush impersonator, who toured with us on the Get Motivated Tour), says he and his wife Kathy have a unique system for solving problems. The foundation of their system is that they don't attack each other, rather they attack the problem together. Each problem that they face, they visualize throwing it on the other side of an imaginary net. Once the problem is on the other side of the net; the problem becomes the opponent (rather than each other). With this approach, they work on solving the problem, not fighting each other. Try this approach in deciding to work as a team, even on items you disagree on. You will experience more peace and happiness.

Another major recommendation we discussed earlier applies here as well. It is so important we are stating again here, for emphasis. Each and every couple we interviewed insisted that it is critical to settle all issues before going to sleep. In other words, do not take today's problems with you into tomorrow. The Bible expresses this as well: "Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry" (Ephesians 4:26b; NIV). We implore you to follow that advice and resolve any problem before you go to bed.

## **DEE'S PERSPECTIVE**

Our Chinese food carryout experience at the start of our marriage was all that was needed to get my attention. It made me more than willing to find a strategy on how to handle the disagreements that would come up in our marriage. What we developed has worked well in our business relationship as well.

“We should order these four dishes” said Willie, as we stood at the takeout counter in Chinatown. But I suggested more dishes than he thought we needed. I thought ordering an array of Chinese dishes would show my brother and his wife, who were visiting from Hampton, Virginia, that we were doing well. I wanted to impress them. I had no idea how many people each dish would feed and I never even thought to ask Willie. On top of that, I never ate Chinese food! I went straight to – “my way, or the highway!” As Willie disagreed, he got louder and I got angrier. He got louder and louder, and I got angrier and angrier. Eventually I said, “I don’t like anyone hollering at me! I will leave you!” Willie was stunned and looked sad, and said he was sorry for hollering. At that point, I realized I had hurt his feelings and I apologized for threatening to leave him. Thankfully, we were able to dial it back, calm down, and then talk about it later that evening. That’s when we decided we needed some rules on how we should disagree.

We have learned not to make mountains out of molehills. We learned to be slow to respond to a perceived offense. We had a discussion with a couple who had a big argument about who would turn off the lights when they left the house! Their argument was not really about the lights, but about their egos: Who was going to be in charge and make the final decision about the lights before leaving home? There’s a great deal to argue about if you’re going to argue about every little thing. We have since learned that we achieve more together, plus we each get more of what we want when we honor the rules of engagement that we agreed to early on in our marriage.

Being on the same side of the table with my husband, whispering in his ear, sweet talking him, and advising him is better than hollering any day. Remember what Proverbs 19:10 says: “Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense” (ESV).

## ♥ JOLLEY ADVICE

1. **Choose not to see every little thing as a problem.**
2. **Dial it back.** If you have a disagreement and you feel it is getting out of control, make a conscious decision to breathe, dial back your emotions, and talk calmly.
3. **Be quick to forgive, forget, and move on.** Apologize quickly and forgive quickly. Once the item is settled, move on and let it go.
4. **Work at creating win-win outcomes from challenging situations.** In his landmark book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, Dr. Stephen Covey said that the most effective people always seek win-win situations. The same is true for those in happy long-lasting marriages. Win-win solutions allow both partners to feel important, fulfilled, and happy.
5. **If you still find a point of disagreement, here is what we recommend:**
  - Review the points you have already agreed upon that are below the belt.
  - Ask this question before you say or do anything: What is more important, this issue or our relationship?
  - Ask your spouse why they feel the way they feel. Listen to their response. Restate the issue, asking them if your restatement is what they are communicating as the key issue or problem. Work to seek alternative solutions.
6. **Compromise.** Keep this in mind and repeat it to yourself over and over again: Happy spouse, happy house!

