

MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

#4 'Love & Respect' part 2

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THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

The Biblical marriage is about:

1. Reflecting God's image
2. To have (sexual) intimacy, friendship, partnership, fun and faithfulness *in service of God*
3. To display the Gospel



LOVE & RESPECT

Love – Respect
To Honor – to Submit

The opposites are Hostility and Contempt



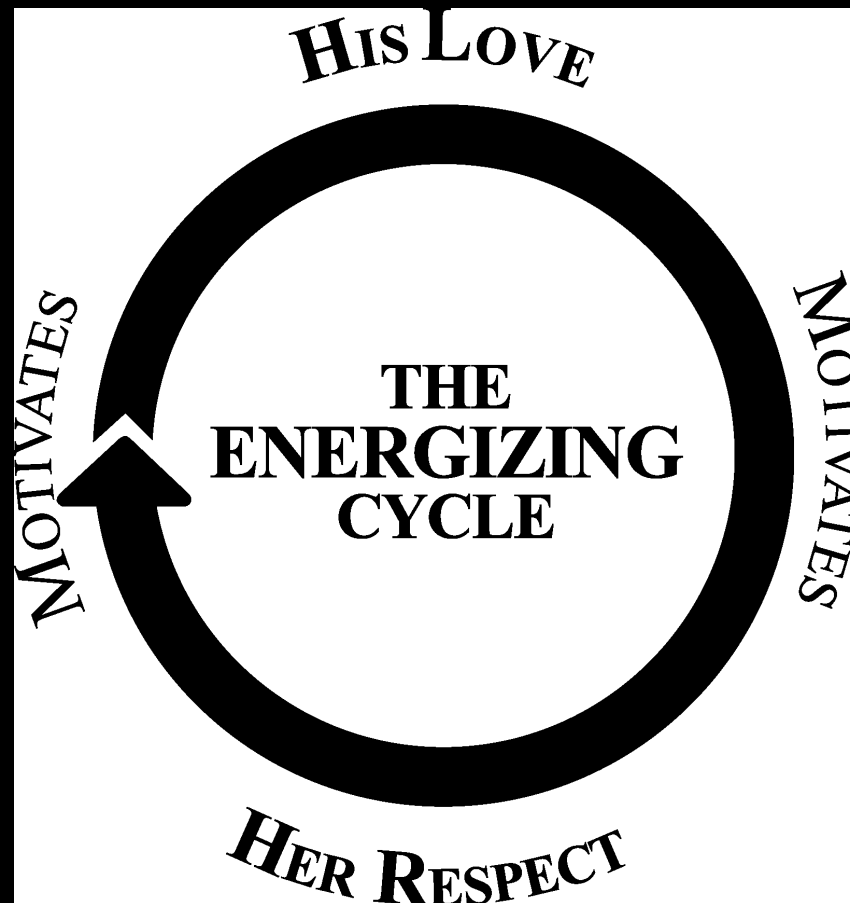
THE CRAZY CYCLE

Men hear criticism as contempt

Women feel silence as hostility



THE ENERGIZING CYCLE



OUR CURRENT CULTURE

When a women say: 'I just want someone to love me, to make me feel special, to make me the most important one in his life'

- no one objects

When a man says: 'I would like to be respected'

- He is often labeled as arrogant, a chauvinist and/or a sexist



THREE MAJOR OBSTACLES

1. She wonders: 'will I be a doormat?'
He wonders: 'why can't she see I'm tired of hearing 'you just don't get it'?'
2. She worries about being a hypocrite
He complains 'I don't get respect'
3. She thinks: 'Can I ever forgive him?'
He thinks: 'I blew it again, nobody can love this women'



1 PETER 3:1-7

1Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2when they see your respectful and pure conduct. 3Do not let your adorning be external – the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear –



1 PETER 3:1-7

4but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. 5For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, 6as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.



1 PETER 3:1-7

7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.



THREE MAJOR OBSTACLES

Obstacle 1:

She wonders: 'will I be a doormat?'

1 Pet. 3:6: you have to overcome your fear

➤ and most likely he will roll out the red carpet for you

➤ and men: 1 Peter 3:7: treating her like a doormat = dishonoring her = actually being a chauvinist and sexist



THREE MAJOR OBSTACLES

Obstacle 1:

He wonders: 'why can't she see I'm tired of hearing 'you just don't get it'?'

- her 'complaining' is often a cry for your love
- it is also true that a husband rather lives in the desert or in his housetop if he has a quarrelsome and contemptuous wife – Prov. 21:9, 19



THREE MAJOR OBSTACLES

Obstacle 2:

She worries about being a hypocrite

- Doesn't he have to earn respect?
- 1 Pet 3:1-2: it is not about how you feel
- this is towards a unbelieving husband
- trusting Gods Word is a sign of maturity



THREE MAJOR OBSTACLES

Obstacle 2:

He complains 'I don't get respect'

Prov. 12:16: conceal the dishonor

- men: you have to make a move towards your wife
- John Gottman: 'it is very effective when a husband can embrace his wife's anger'
- Luke 6:32, Hosea?



THREE MAJOR OBSTACLES

Obstacle 3:

She thinks: 'Can I ever forgive him?'

The Bible condemns a husband who is harsh and evil: 1 Sam. 25

➤ Matt. 18:22, Eph. 4:32, Coll. 3:13:
forgive as the Lord has forgiven you

➤ A good willed husband will not get up in the morning thinking: 'how can I upset her today?'



THREE MAJOR OBSTACLES

Obstacle 3:

He thinks: 'I blew it again, nobody can love this women'

Prov. 24:16: if you fail to love her, REBOUND!

- When your wife is coming to you with disrespect you have two choices:
 - 1) firing back or stonewalling her
 - 2) try to hear her cry for love



WHO SHOULD MAKE THE FIRST MOVE?

The one who sees him or herself as most mature.

Also, marriage can improve somewhat if one gets the concept of love & respect but it really works if both are 'in'.



THE BIG QUESTION

Wives: will you appreciate your husbands need for respect or will you denounce his feelings? Dismissing them as antiquated or male arrogance?

Husbands: will you appreciate your wife's need for your love or continue to ignore her feelings, stonewalling her?



FOR THE HUSBANDS:

How to love, honor, cherish and live with your wife in an understanding way?

Closeness: eye to eye contact

Openness: share and ask feelings

Understanding: don't fix it, just listen (1 Pet. 3:7). She is the porcelain bowl.

Peacemaking: don't say 'let's just drop it' but 'I'm sorry!'

Loyalty: be faithful and tell her you love her, wear your ring and never, ever use the D word!

Esteem: express your thankfulness, show her honor in word and deed!



FOR THE WIVES:

How to live with your husband in a respectful way?

Conquest: appreciate his desire to work and achieve: tell him you believe in him!

Hierarchy: appreciate his desire to protect and provide (1 Tim. 5:8), if necessary he will die for family

Authority: appreciate his desire to serve and lead, don't give the signal 'you are responsible but I still have authority' or 'I'll let you lead as long I agree' (1 Tim. 2:12, 1 Pet. 3:1-2 = actually great advise for wives)



FOR THE WIVES:

Insight: appreciate his desire to analyze and counsel: a marriage needs her (spiritual) intuition but his (spiritual) insight as well. It will encourage him to take up his spiritual leadership at home!

Relationship: appreciate his desire for shoulder to shoulder friendship: Gen 2:18 'a helper fit for him'

Sexuality: appreciate his desire for sexual intimacy: sex is symbolic for his deep need of respect: 1 Cor. 7:3-5, Prov. 5:15



REFLECT:

For women: what if your son would marry someone like you, would you be happy for him?

For men: what if your daughter would marry someone like you, would you be happy for her?



SERVE GOD ABOVE ALL!

Serve you spouse as if your are serving the Lord (Eph. 6:7-8)





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