



“Proverbs for the Marriage and Family,” and I’ve told you that this series is one that I preached 11 years ago...and I’ve lamented about the fact that the nuclear family...a man, a woman and children is no longer seen as good. Today, in our upside-down culture, we don’t even know what a woman is and we’ve got men pretending to be women destroying our girls’ sports teams. So, we’ve been taking the:

Deserted Island Challenge

That means we’re only using the Bible to guide our thinking (epistemology) when it comes to marriage and family. Gloria Steinem and Whoopie Goldberg aren’t with us, nor are the ladies of the View, nor any liberal college professors, or the progressive liberal media...we don’t have any of that here...just God’s Word and we know the Word of God is the **final authority in all matters**. Amen!?

You see, the Word of God originated from the mind of God...breathed into 40 authors as instructions and directions for how to live life, and it never changes. It’s timeless. It doesn’t matter what the culture says... So, get used to it...people will look at you strangely when you quote Scripture regarding marriage and family. But, we’ve got to proclaim it because it is the ABSOLUTE TRUTH! We’ve got to

proclaim, speak it and stand on it. And we're going to do that yet again today.

Last week we addressed what wives need and today we're going to address what "**What Husbands Need**." Next week, "What Children Need." So, let's look at one verse for now:

Proverbs 12:25

²⁵ Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.

Now, we talked last week about how our ladies have to deal with feelings of anxiety and never measuring up and tremendous guilt, but I would argue, so do our men. But some might say: "**Are you kidding...men don't have the problems women do...maybe...maybe not in the same way...but, you ask a man if he deals with anxiety. He'll tell you that he does.**" But those same people will say, oh don't start talking about men and what they need...that's just going to increase 'toxic masculinity'... No...what men need...is to act more like women."

And you know what? that's exactly what we've been doing for the last couple of decades. We've been raising our boys to act like women. And look at what that's done to our culture. We've got men like Dylan Mulvaney and Lia Thomas who are acting like women, and it's truly an affront to our ladies and our little girls. Men can't have babies. And that's why I love how Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in 1 Corinthians 16 says it:

1 Corinthians 16:13

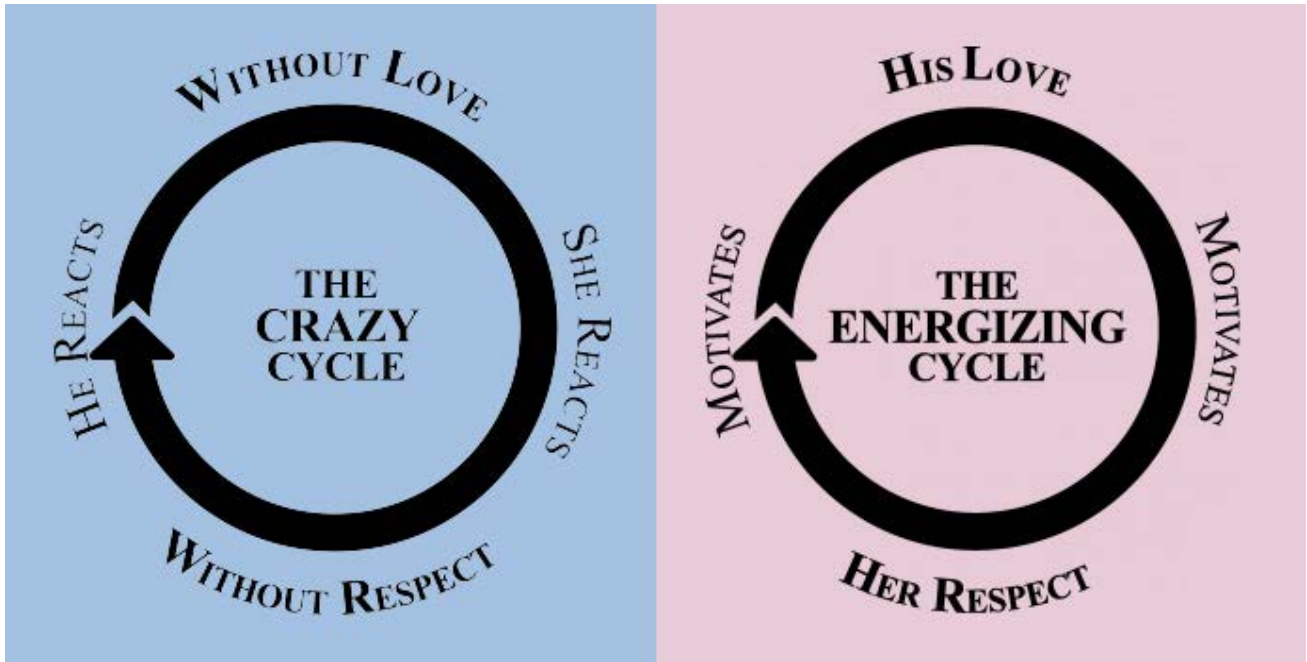
¹³ Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

Listen, we want men to **act like men**, because that's exactly how God designed us. Men want and should be praised for being men and that's not toxic...that's basic to who we are and who God has created men to be. We saw this last week and we'll see it again...God has given specific instructions to husbands and wives. These instructions are actually commands and they are unique and different for husbands and wives.

Ephesians 5:33

³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

The husbands are commanded to **love** their wives, while the wives are told to **respect** their husbands. Watch the screens, as we see this again. Now again, I tell you that we get this from author and pastor, Dr. Emmerson Eggerichs...



Last week...we saw **COUPLE** for the ladies:



She needs: Closeness, Openness, Understanding, Peacemaking, Loyalty, Esteem. Providing those for her fills her **love tank**... Today, we're going to see what fills up the husbands' **respect tank**. It's called CHAIRS...



Conquest, Hierarchy, Authority, Insight, Relationships and Sexuality. Now I get it...women read that list, (having quite honestly, breathed the air of the “women’s liberation movement” in our culture most of their lives), and they can almost choke. Well, remember, we’re on that deserted island with only the Bible. So, let’s look at this through the lens of Scripture and not the culture...shall we? So, let’s begin...what husbands need:



C=Conquest

Men love to conquer! Watch little boys on a playground...they’re always climbing to the top of whatever it is on that playground that’s the biggest and tallest thing...and once they get to the top, they raise their arms and shout to the heavens! I MADE IT!! Ladies, conquest means that you understand how important it is for him to appreciate his desire to achieve...to accomplish...to work. This goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 2:15

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Eden was paradise...perfect...Eve hadn't been created; and yet, Adam was working...in paradise! Working!!! You see Church, we have to understand something...part of the design of God's creation was making man so that he would WORK. Somehow that's almost a taboo word in our culture today. Should we actually want and expect people to work? Yes! Contrary to what the government bureaucrats think. Listen, work is fundamental to a man's identity... Think about it: two men meet and what's the first thing they ask each other: "What do you do," right? This takes us back to Proverbs...where we see someone who works has plenty...

Proverbs 12:11

¹¹ Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

Proverbs 12:24 goes even further...

Proverbs 12:24

²⁴ The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

Men want to work...to succeed...and he wants you, ma'am, to be proud of his accomplishments. Yet, ladies...I need to address something with you... While your husband wants to be your "Prince Charming," and "Knight in Shining Armor." You know...this guy:



Man, I like his hair! ☺ Yes, he wants to be that, but that's not realistic. He's not that. Why, because most of us don't look like movie stars...we're just us...and this isn't heaven!! But listen...ladies...I still hear women say to one another: "Oh girl...you know you deserve to be loved romantically by a man who looks like that." Well, I'm sorry sister...you've been watching too many Hallmark Channel movies...this isn't realistic. But you can still emit this erroneous perception by how you act around him, by not respecting his desire to work hard, and that brings the anxiety, see it again:

Proverbs 12:25

²⁵ Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.

You say, "You're trying to beat up the ladies." No, I'm not! I told you last week that it would be the guys turn to be encouraged this week. So, I pushed the men to step up for their brides. Let's

remember why God created woman, (and we'll return to this in a couple of weeks), God created Eve for what?

Genesis 2:18

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

Ladies, men need help! Amen?! Men need all the help we can get and even though Adam had a perfect environment in the Garden of Eden and He had God talking to him in the cool of the day...he was still lonely. So, God created Eve from one of Adam's ribs (think of that...woman was created from man) and God brought her to Adam and he said: "Woe man!" WOMAN!!! ☺ And Adam had a mate...and she helped him.

Ladies...do you remember what it was like with you and your hubby, before you got married.... Those long talks...sitting close to him and leaned up against his shoulder, listening to him tell you about all of his plans and dreams? And you affirmed those? You were his cheerleader... You probably said, "You can do it! I believe in you. I'll go with you...right by your side." But 10 years and three kids later, somehow maybe you've stopped being his cheerleader. Does he need his cheerleader back?

I love the story of Dr. EV and Jane Hill.



As a young couple struggling in the ministry, EV Hill came home one evening to a dark apartment...but Jane, his wife, was standing in the tiny dining room with a table lit by candlelight. Dr. Hill said, "Wow! This is great! I'll go wash up." He went to the bathroom and flipped on the lights...but they didn't work. He realized the power was off. Coming back to the dining room, he saw his bride crying and she said: *"Oh honey, I didn't want you to find out. You work so hard and I know you're trying...but, they cut off the power today because we couldn't pay the bill...but, it's ok. The Lord will provide. We'll be fine, I'm proud of you...so, I thought tonight, we'd just eat by candlelight."*

Many years later, Dr. Hill in remembering that evening said, *"You know, she could've said, 'I've never been in this situation before. I was raised in a home where this never happened.' She could've broken my spirit; she could've demoralized me. But instead, she said, 'I'm proud of you, the Lord will provide' and she believed in me. That gave me the drive to keep going when I was just about to give up."* Dr. EV Hill would become one of the most well-known preachers in America. He would serve as associate professor of evangelism for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and become a dear friend of Dr. James Dobson and the pastor of a thriving church in Southern California. But it could have all ended that day, without his cheerleader, Jane.



H = Hierarchy

This is appreciating his desire to protect, provide and even die for you, if need be. For men, we often see ourselves in terms of ranking... It's how we size ourselves up. Men do this wherever they work...they're constantly sizing up and asking: "Where do I fall on the totem pole?" You certainly see this with sports teams...with starters and captains. We see this in the military with rank and the honor that comes with that rank. And this reminds me of the Titanic:



Remember when it was sinking and the lifeboats were being lowered and loaded...what was being shouted? "Women and Children First!!" And the men looked at one another knowingly admitting: "We're gonna die!" But, that's what men do for their wives and children.

[1 Timothy 5:8](#)

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Men feel, (or should feel), a responsibility to provide and to protect his wife and children. But again, there are those women in the feminist movement who see this as patriarchal and say: “**You men just want to dominate!**” No, we don’t. We just want to do our job. We feel responsible. You see, God created man, Adam, to lead...and the woman, Eve, was created from Adam to help him, and this is “headship.” And it’s very provocative word for some.

Ephesians 5:22-24

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

What does it mean to be the head? It’s the Titanic. WE DIE!! And men feel it. And this is from God. Headship within the home is part of His “Divine Design,” and that’s Hierarchy.



A=Authority-this is appreciating his desire to be strong as the leader of the home

Again, we live in a culture where men are almost conditioned NOT to be masculine. What is pushed today is the egalitarian position. What is that? Let me show you the definition:

Egalitarianism: is the belief that there are no gender differences between male and female; and therefore, men and women are interchangeable when it comes to functional roles in leadership and in the household.

That’s not a biblical view. The opposing view is complementarianism, which says:

Complementarianism: is the belief that men and women are created in the image of God and are equal, but there are gender distinctions when it comes to functional roles in society, in the church, and in the home.

We talked about this with the SBC issue earlier in the summer with those who were pushing for women pastors. The problem with this is the fact that the Word of God doesn’t allow for that. Again,

hear me clearly, men and women are equal in the eyes of God. But God has assigned different and distinct roles for men and women in the church and in the home because of how He has designed the church and the home to function.

But here's the rub. You've got some men who are so passive that they don't take the responsibility and the authority to lead...and that's on them...but, you also have the reverse...there are some men who want to lead, but she won't let him. Oh...you tell him he's the leader...but, you still carry all the authority and you tell him how wrong he is at almost every turn.

You in essence are saying to him: "You're responsible," but you have the ultimate veto power." Do you know what it's called on a job to have the all responsibility, but no authority? STRESS. Nobody wins in that situation. It's the same in the home. In that home, there's likely constant arguing and fussing, which often leads to the guy just giving up! He'll just hit the recliner and say, "Whatever! Because I can't do it to suit her anyway...so, why even try!" Ladies, this might be a struggle...but, slide over and let him drive. Let him live out his God-assigned role. And brother, if you won't take that role...or you feel you can't...you need to go back to Message #1 and ask the Lord to help you address your mess and stop being passive like King David, because that only leads to disaster.



I-Insight, respecting and appreciating his desire to analyze and counsel.

Ladies, do you ever wonder why men spend so much time at work or being occupied with their hobbies? They feel more respected and appreciated there. Men desire to be appreciated for what they do...that feels the respect tank. Wives respect your husbands.

But I want to say this to my brothers...yes, we're called to lead and provide insight and carry the weight and the burden of the home...but what about when there's a disagreement? Do you break the tie because you're the "Head of the home?"

Listen carefully, nowhere in Scripture are men given license to dominate or domineer their wives or their homes. Men lead...and we do so as Christ led...by taking a towel and a basin and serving. So,

in my house...if Pam and I aren't agreed...we don't move forward with the decision. Why? Because I'm not a dummy. Why would I go against my helper? God specifically designed her to help me. She was designed to complete me.

So, do you know what we do? We seek consensus. That means we might not always agree 100% on something...but, we come to the place that we both can feel good enough to move forward without either one of us feeling that we've been bulldozed. Remember, you're one flesh and God is not going to speak one thing to you and another thing to your spouse. It's that simple. I lead and bear the weight of the responsibility, yes...but, I don't move without her agreeing.



R=Relationship-appreciating and respecting his desire for shoulder-to-shoulder friendship.

Sister in the Lord, he married you because you loved and liked him. Song of Solomon 5:1 says: "Eat, O friends, and drink; drink your fill, O lovers." God called the couple "friends." Then in verse 16 she says of him...

Song of Songs 5:16

¹⁶ His mouth^[d] is most sweet, and he is altogether desirable. This is my beloved and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

This is my beloved and this is **my friend!** Ladies...you desire face-to-face, that's closeness and openness, right? Do you know what he desires? **Shoulder to shoulder.** You say, "I can do that?" Without talking? That doesn't come naturally to you. But, to a man...just being with him, riding to Lowe's in the truck to buy some nails...that's energizing to him. Monday night, I showed Pam the final play of the NY Jets and Buffalo Bills game...a punt runback for a touchdown. I know Pam had no interest in that...but, she said... "Wow, that's pretty cool." For me, it was exciting and I wanted her to experience it with me, shoulder to shoulder.



Sexuality.

Ladies, if you didn't know this...(and I know you do), men are visually oriented. They're stimulated by what they see; while you, by what you hear. Jesus said this about men.

Matthew 5:28

²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

So, men, knowing our eyes can betray us...we have to be guarded in this area...it's why Job made a covenant with his eyes that he might not look open a woman in a lustful way. But there's something else we need to understand about intimacy...that we find the Apostle Paul addressed to the Corinthians who had questions about this.

1 Corinthians 7:1-5

¹ Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." ² But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. ³ The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴ For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵ Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Brothers and sisters, this is a sensitive topic and I'll leave it here...but God gave us our bodies for one another...intimacy is God's idea...but, it's been hijacked by Satan and perverted. Intimacy was designed by God for pleasure, for procreation and it is good...and knowing this...we should never use intimacy as a weapon to hold over one another's head. Nor should anything be done in a disrespectful or dishonoring way.

Well, that's Chairs!



Men feel respected when ladies understand and appreciate their desire for conquest, hierarchy, authority, insight, relationships and sexuality.

So, we're done...no...not quite. Because for some of you, you've been sitting here over the last two weeks and you're struggling...you say, "Yeah, you don't understand my situation. I've got a husband or a wife that's totally disengaged. All of this sounds good in theory...but, it won't work for me." Okay...let me offer you an opportunity to see your situation differently...let me give you the chance to jump off the Crazy Cycle and onto something called the Rewarded Cycle.



His love, regardless of her respect, should be given to her and he'll be rewarded and her respect regardless of his love, should be given to him and she'll be rewarded. Remember when Jesus said:

“As you have done it to the least of these you’ve done it unto me.” This is the essence of the Rewarded Cycle.

In other words, what we do to our spouse, we’re doing unto the Lord. Remember when Jesus said to turn the other cheek and walk the second mile? Is that because He wants us to be doormats? No. Jesus was saying, “I don’t want you to see this in the physical realm...I want you to see this in the spiritual realm. And when we do, that’s when we can see the power of God work in our lives.

Think of it like this: Imagine that when you’re talking to your spouse and you’re in a situation like we’ve described (they aren’t here...or just aren’t getting this), imagine...just beyond his shoulder, ma’am...is the Lord Jesus...and yes...he’s being unloving so your desire is to **be unloving**...but, Jesus says...NO...NO... Look at me. **Take your eyes off him...Look at me...be respectful unto me!!**

Now I’m not saying to stay in an abusive situation...I’m not talking about subjecting yourself to abuse...I’m talking about responding in a respectful way as unto Jesus to a man that is being unloving right now to you. And, the same is true for you sir. It’s the Rewarded Cycle. His love, regardless of her respect, should be given to her and he’ll be rewarded and her respect regardless of his love, should be given to him and she’ll be rewarded.



Last thought for husbands and wives. Pam doesn’t cause me to be the way that I am, she reveals the way I am. It depends on my motivation. Think of it this way, if someone offered you and your spouse a million dollars if you wouldn’t fight for 48 hours and we followed you around with a camera...I bet you could do it. Why? Because it’s not that you CAN’T do it’s...it’s just that you lack the motivation to do. What if our motivation was simply Jesus? You see, the truth is...we need to realize that life is hard and sometimes we’re going to simply have to do the right thing and ask the Lord to help us love or respect, even when they’re not reciprocating.

Brothers and sisters, this may be very hard for you...sitting here...seeing others who have their spouses, and you don’t. Or when you go to work and hear your co-workers tell you... “You ought to leave him or her. You deserve to be happy.” For the ladies in that situation, your coworkers, don’t believe your husband deserves respect and that you just need to leave him. But could I ask you to hear the voice of Jesus over those voices? The One who walks on water and raises the dead! The

One who does the impossible. Nothing is too hard for Him. And that is a GOOD WORD...because, it's true...

Proverbs 12:25

²⁵ Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.
