



“Proverbs for the Marriage and Family.” Last week was all about getting things right in our homes. We talked about the tremendous dysfunction in King David’s home that passed right down to his son Solomon. Both men were powerful Kings who led Israel into great wealth and prosperity...but, they blew it at home...and I want to show you how this looks in the Proverbs. You’ve turned to chapter 15...look at verse 13.

**Proverbs 15:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed. <sup>14</sup> The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly. <sup>15</sup> All the days of the afflicted are evil, but the cheerful of heart has a continual feast. <sup>16</sup> Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it. <sup>17</sup> Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it.

David and Solomon had great treasure and GREAT trouble with it...yes, he had the fattened ox, but hatred with it. There were not cheerful faces in his home, nor David’s, as his sons killed each other...and had a daughter who was attacked and defiled by her half-brother. Solomon became so deceived that he gave his sons to pagan wives to be sacrificed to Molech. Yes, yes, yes...David and Solomon would have longed to have had a modest dinner of herbs where there was love... But they chose to disobey God and they reaped the consequences.

**Turn in your Bibles to Ephesians 5.** Last week, we asked the Lord to lead us to a heart of humility and repentance...to set things right in our homes...to “own” our part...to seek forgiveness and to truly seek the Lord. That’s the only way we can see change in our homes...it’s if we humble ourselves and truly seek righteousness. Well, this week we’re going to begin the process of looking at the individuals within our homes. Today, we’re going to start with our ladies and we’re going to see “What Wives Need.” Next week, we’ll see: “What Husbands Need.”

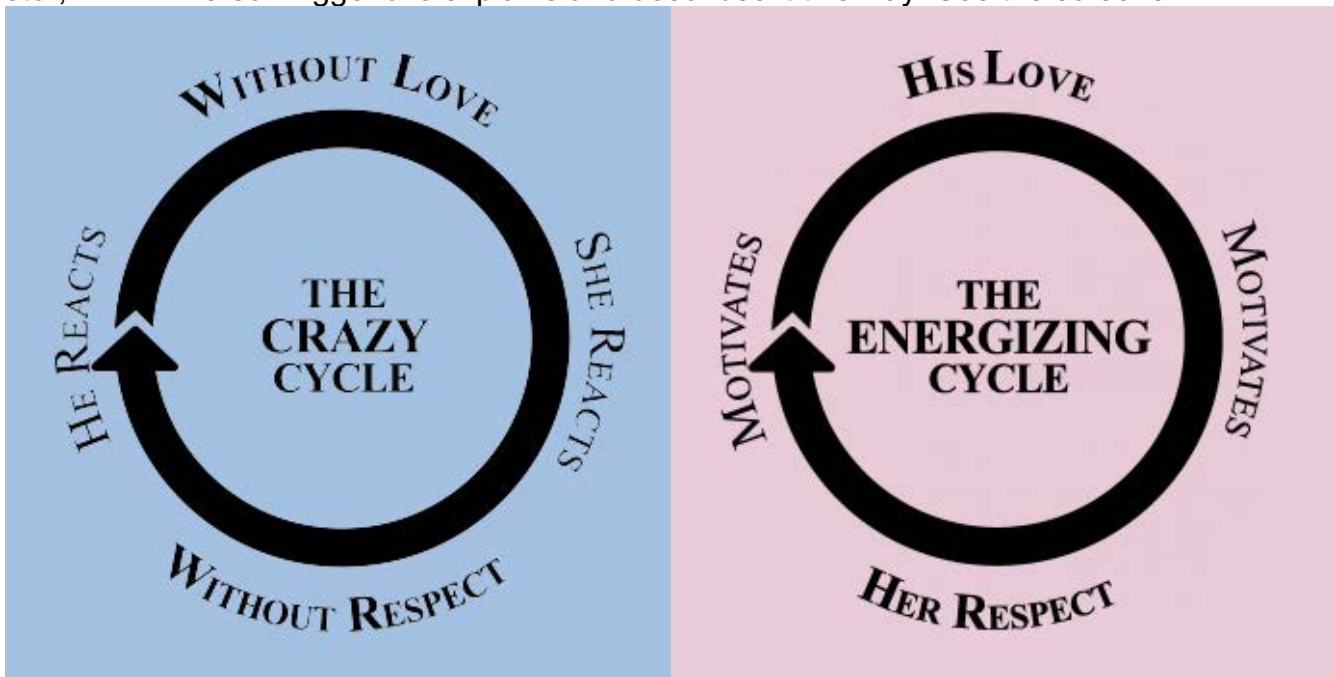
Now, in order for us to understand what wives need, we need to understand what Scripture shows us about husbands and wives. Ephesians chapter 5!! And we’ll come back to this passage several times in our series...it’s that critical. There are very unique differences in how God has made husbands and wives and we’re going to see this.

## Ephesians 5:22-33

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

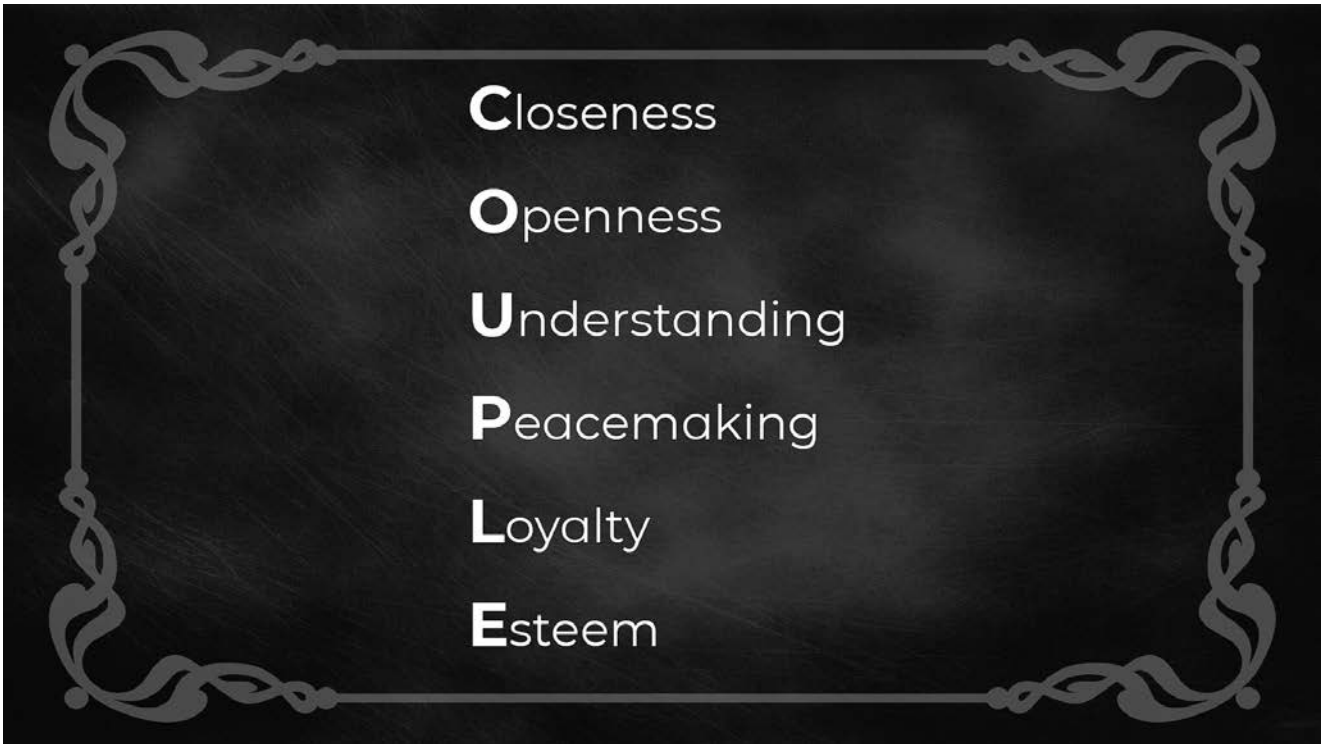
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It's that last verse that's so critical, church! We can't miss the different instructions given to the husband and the wife. The husbands are told to **love** their wives, while the wives are told to **respect** their husbands. You say, "That's just the wording...they're interchangeable." No, they're not. The word for love is agapao...the word for respect is phobeo. Those are two totally different words and they show two totally different commands. Why? Why the different commands? Well, author and pastor, Dr. Emmerson Eggerichs explains and describes it this way. See the screens...



Today we're concentrating on the wives... What do Wives Need? They need LOVE... Husbands, we want to motivate her love and I'm going to show you what we're going to use to guide us, and I'm taking this from Dr. Eggerichs...because it's so good. It's called: **COUPLE**. (This is an acrostic.)

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Closeness, Openness, Understanding, Peacemaking, Loyalty, Esteem. Brothers...bottom line...this is what we're looking for. Take a look...



Isn't that nice? That's a hug of love if you ask me. She feels loved! Let's talk about **Closeness in detail**. Let's begin with the: **C=Closeness**

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Wives need and want closeness. Proverbs 15:30 says:

**Proverbs 15:30**

**<sup>30</sup> The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and good news refreshes<sup>[c]</sup> the bones.**

What does that mean? It means: you can't see someone's eyes unless you're looking at them. Women want face to face. And that's the way God made us. Remember, we just read: when we get married...we become "one flesh" in the eyes of God, a profound mystery that is. One flesh intimates face to face. You know...I think about coffee shops... What kind of tables do they have?



They're small, right...usually for two people...not large groups...face to face. Think about it...ever been to Starbucks and seen two construction workers sitting there? No...it's usually couples or maybe a couple of lady friends... What happens face-to-face...CLOSENESS.

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**Let me give you an example from the medical world** where studies have been done on infants. Take a baby girl for instance...when surrounded by adults around her crib...she, by her nature, will look up and seek to make contact with a human face. For the boys, (and here's the part I didn't tell you), there was also a ceiling fan above the crib...guess what the boy looks at? The ceiling fan. ☺

I remember when Clara was about three it was bedtime and we were talking in her room one night...it was very dark in her room, except for a small night light...but, she suddenly said, "Daddy, look at me." Little did I know that I hadn't been looking right at her. She could tell. You see, guys...when you're talking to a lady...even your little girl...they want you to look at them. Men don't do that when they're talking to each other. When men talk to each other, man to man, they look at the ceiling fan. ☺...no seriously, often times they're not looking directly at each other.

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So, let's bring this to our homes. how does this play out there? For instance, let's say an argument breaks out sir, with you and your wife. Next thing you know...the wife is getting really animated and she starts walking toward you with her finger pointing at you and maybe now she's VERY LOUD...here she comes...she's coming!

Now, for a man, when challenged by his wife and she's animated...it's his normal reaction to retreat...to look away or even to leave the room. But, brothers...get this now...what she's seeking is closeness...she's seeking love...and they do that with face-to-face interactions...but, for the husband he backs away, because that's the loving thing to do. Proverbs 13:12 tells us:

**Proverbs 13:12**

<sup>12</sup> Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

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Men, she needs for you to talk to her...don't defer...that makes her heart sick...talk to her...listen to her...work it out. **You do that at work**. You handle conflicts at the office, on the jobsite, in the board room, on the factory floor. Men...ladies need and crave love...and for them, that's closeness. She wants that eye to eye...face to face, to be heard...and that's hard for us to sometimes...because it goes against our nature. We're not, by nature face to face, but she needs us to be and that shows love.

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Ladies, understand this about men though, we're not going to do this perfectly. Please be patient with us. For some, this will be totally new. This is new information...and things that are new, take some time.

**Proverbs 24:16**

<sup>16</sup> for the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.

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What does that mean? It means we'll mess up...but, we want to step up to the challenge...to rise to the occasion! Men are warriors! So, brothers, let's work very hard to be close to our wives. #2



**O= Openness...**

Men...it's pretty easy for us to compartmentalize our emotions...ask your wife is this is true. She's constantly trying to figure out what you're thinking, because you won't tell her. But she'll tell you in a heartbeat. Why? Because it's her nature (in most cases, not all), women are very OPEN, they talk, they communicate, by nature. That's what makes women nurturers. By nature, men (in most cases, not all) are not as likely to open up and talk incessantly. Again, there are exceptions. But if we clam up, she's not going to feel loved. And nine times out of ten...she's going to have a very difficult time being respectful toward you, because your lack of openness makes her feel unloved. So, we're back to the crazy cycle.



Brothers, we've got to "SAVE SOME FOR HOME!" I use this motto all the time. The most important thing you will do is what you do inside your home between say 6 and 11 pm every night. We give so much at work (men and women) and we have to save some for home. Don't give your spouse and your kids the leftovers. They're the ones you love the most.

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For me and Pam...we talk at night. During the day it's often very hard for me to talk. But if she needs me or she calls...I'm answering it. She's that important and she knows that. If she calls, I answer...a text can be later. But if she calls...I'm on it. But our best talks come at night after the kids are in the bed and we debrief. She needs to know that time is there. That's why it's good to go bed at the same time if possible.

And we always pray. we pray together. **Men...do you pray over your wife?** Does she hear you call out her name to the Father? Brothers, we've got to be doing that if we want to legitimately claim the title of "leader" in our home. She needs to know that you're the spiritual leader...it feeds her soul. Remember...

**Ephesians 5:28-30**

**<sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church.**

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What did Jesus do for the church? He gave himself up for her! But, understand this, brothers: many times, you'll ask her what's wrong and she'll say: "**I don't know.**" Why? Because She's not had enough time to talk it out, to figure it out. She needs you to let her OPEN UP! You see, women talk



to discover what they're feeling...they have to talk...it's how they process what they're feeling, and if we don't allow this openness...we're going to send her into the crazy cycle. Be open with her! #3. The U is for...



### U=Understanding...

Wives want and need their husbands to be understanding. Now I'll forewarn you...this passage that we're going to read really makes feminists mad. But I want you to understand and be reminder that we're taking the...Deserted Island Challenge...



So, we're going to look to the word of God, the timeless word of God, as if it's our only resource on a deserted island, no cell phones, books, pundits, just the Bible. Okay...here we go...

### 1 Peter 3:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Likewise, 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,<sup>2</sup> when they see your respectful and pure conduct. <sup>3</sup> Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— <sup>4</sup> but 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. <sup>5</sup> For this is



how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, <sup>6</sup>as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening. <sup>7</sup>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<sup>[a]</sup> of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

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Feminists say Christianity is hostile to women... That's a lie. Jesus liberated women, who were seen as nobodies in the first century. The ground is level at the cross for men and women. Listen, the "weaker vessel," understand that's a comparative statement...not a qualitative statement. It's not saying she's a weak vessel. **It's a comparative statement** saying she is weak"er" **not weak**. This is the gender thing. Folks, who are stronger and faster, men or women. Men. That's the way God made us...to be the protector. That's why it's so wrong having men play in women's sports. The point is...men are to be understanding of their wives and honor them.

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So, how does this look in everyday life? Well, it's like this...sometimes Pam will start talking to me about a problem...and by nature, most men are fixers and I go into "fix it mode." But, what does she want me to do 9 times out of 10 times, ladies? She wants me to: LISTEN. So, I have to ask Pam...**do you want me to solve the problem or just listen?** She wants me to listen and that shows UNDERSTANDING. She wants us to communicate...and men...communication is the oil in the car of your marriage...in fact, I would tell you that when you stop communicating in whatever sphere in life you are operating in...then, you're going to be in trouble...home, work, children, church, ball teams, etc.

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But listen ladies...you've got to help your husband. You can't just dump everything on him all at once, as soon as he walks in the door. Many women love to: spider webbing.



That's telling him something but then taking off in 14 other directions. It's like you never finish a point, and the conversation looks like a spider web. Ladies, at point four...you lost him...he's now staring at the ceiling fan! Why is this the case? Because in most cases...he's a linear thinker...he thinks about one thing at a time. He can't multi-task like you. But, the goal is to communicate, because when we do brothers: that communicates UNDERSTANDING. Now, the P...



### **P=Peacemaking**

Let's go back to Proverbs. I want to show you some powerful verses.

#### **Proverbs 12:18**

<sup>18</sup> There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

#### **Proverbs 13:3**

<sup>3</sup> Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

#### **Proverbs 14:29**

<sup>29</sup> Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.

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Who is a person who is slow to anger? I would argue that's a peacemaker. Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount:

#### **Matthew 5:9**

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons<sup>[a]</sup> of God."

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Men...we need to be warriors for peace! **She needs peace and when she gets peace, she'll feel secure, safe, protected!** Without it...she's going to be anxious and uneasy in her spirit and that leads her to be disrespectful...because she thinks you don't care.

Brothers, here's something I've learned having been married for almost 33 years and having three daughters and 4 granddaughters...ladies need to ventilate...talk it out...and that's going to seem disrespectful...because it's going to seem that she's attacking you...but, she's not...she's just needing to get it out...and you will be showing her love by not taking offense and listening. That brings peace to her soul! She can't have peace until she gets it out and feels understood.

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So, men...listen...even if you feel she's 80% guilty in a situation...be chivalrous...own up to the 20% that's your fault and watch what happens...she will say, "Aw...thank you...you're being so kind...I'm sorry...and she'll often become self-deprecating...and she'll say, 'I'm sorry too.'" And then, guess what? You'll have peace! The L...

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### **L=Loyalty**

If you're loyal to someone...say a company, what are you? Sometimes you're called a "company man." You don't leave for an extra dollar an hour. If you're loyal, you're completely committed. And when it comes to marriage...she needs loyalty. Remember, your wedding vows...which were likely, something like this: for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part. That's loyalty! Malachi the prophet wrote this:

### **Malachi 2:15-16**

<sup>15</sup>Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. <sup>16</sup>"For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless."

That means be loyal. That means no divorce...because you are loyal. You don't give up. I'm going to be blunt: God hates divorce. Nobody ever gets married thinking about it. They don't think it will happen to them. But, it still happens about 50% of the time and that includes in the church...but, the divorce stats are falling because people aren't getting married as much...they're cohabitating...and I'm sorry, we're on the deserted island with our bibles and that's a sin too!

We aren't loyal to one another anymore. We have no-fault divorces. We don't give rings anymore...we've give keys. How does that make a lady feel...she opens a little box and doesn't find a ring...but, a key. There's no loyalty in that. That's a contract...you mess up...don't make me happy...you're out. What a shame.

Sir, let me ask you, what if your wife suddenly was rendered a quadriplegic because of an accident?



Would you stay married to her...keep those vows...in sickness and health...till death do us part...or would you give up? I'll tell you...there's a lot people giving up on marriages for a lot less than that. Today, dear brother in the Lord, is she panicking for your lack of loyalty? Can I be blunt...when you look at some other woman as she passes by (following her with your eyes and your neck), do you know what that does to her? That feels disloyal...she doesn't feel loved. Do you want her looking at other men? Are you loyal to her? You say, "yes." What if I asked her. What if her this: Is he more loyal to you, or his job...how about his hobby or even the church?

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You see, many years ago, I sang in a quartet and I played church league basketball and I played in other basketball (weekend tournaments). I worked all week, went to church on Sunday...but, I was hardly ever home. I had to repent...and I had to start saying: NO and saving some for home. Pam needed to know I was loyal to her. Now, I'm not saying you can't do any extra-curricular things...but, the home comes first! The E...

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### **E = Esteem**

Now esteem is similar to Loyalty, but it's a bit different. You can be loyal to someone, but they can still feel that you don't esteem them. Women want and need both...loyalty and esteem They want to know they're valued and honored.

Let me see if I can explain it this way...using what I call a point system. Women have a different point system than men...meaning that men usually think they've got to do something big, score a lot of point...but often, it's the little things that mean the most to them. It's not necessarily the cruise. Often times...it's just helping out. If you see there are dirty dishes in the sink...do them. BTW, that's not women's work...it's just work. It's helping with the kids. It's even sometimes defending her with the kids. It's saying: "That's my wife you are talking to!"

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Yes, so often, it's the little things...like perhaps an evening walk. You take a walk and you pick her a flower...and guess what might happen...years later, the grandkids come to see Grandma...she might show them that flower you gave her that she pressed in a book, talking about that evening, like it was yesterday, as her eyes feel with tears...because of the way you made her feel...esteemed.

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**Men, sometimes our ladies have trouble with comparing themselves to others.** Particularly in this age of social media and the "Attention Economy." It's like they feel they can never measure up. She lives crushed most of the time. Crushed by her own inadequacies and fears that are exacerbated by a culture that tells her she'll not good enough, no matter she does, and she suffers.

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A wife might say to her husband...did you hear that Sue made a rocking chair for their den. Can you believe that...Sue can do everything...she even makes some of her kids' own clothes. What can I make? Sir you can tell her: **"YOU MAKE ME HAPPY!"** And guess what...her heart will melt and I bet you might experience this:



You showed esteem and she felt loved. And that's the Energizing Cycle.



Ladies...could I ask one more time for your patience with your husband about all of this...help us. We need help. You are our "helper," Scripture says. We're probably going to be slower at this than you like...but help us, we'll eventually get it. Men are a lot like turtles...we move slower than you ladies and, like a turtle, sometimes we tuck our heads back into our shells but men...that's where we've got to ask the Lord to help us. This is a spiritual journey we're on and our homes are worth it! What do our wives need?



**C**loseness

**O**penness

**U**nderstanding

**P**eacemaking

**L**oyalty

**E**steem