

Love & Respect Week 1 - The Crazy Cycle

Bottom Line When she doesn't get the love she needs, she reacts. When he doesn't get the respect he needs, he reacts. Know what your spouse needs.

Date of Sermon April 28th

#1 Week in Series | Series: Love & Respect

Core Scripture Ephesians 5:33 **Ephesians 5:33** "Each man must love his own wife and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband."

Summary of Main Points

- 1 In communication, there is "what is said" and "what is heard" Learn to understand "what is heard"
- 2 When she doesn't get the love she needs, she reacts. When he doesn't get the respect he needs, he reacts. Know what your spouse needs.
- 3 You can break the crazy cycle! Women, by intentionally showing respect to your husband. Men, by intentionally showing love to your wife.

// Introduction Ideas

- FUNNY STORY of you and your wife - mostly self-deprecating. Don't throw her under the bus unless you also make fun of yourself AND have her permission.
- Know this: God wants your marriage to succeed. Satan, God's enemy, wants your marriage to fail. He will do everything he can to tempt you to live for yourself, demand your own way and ruin your marriage. But God wants your marriage to succeed - to thrive! So He has given us scriptures in His Word - advice to help us succeed. You're going to hear a lot of that today.
- Healthy marriages means healthy homes.
- Healthy homes means healthy church.
- God is constantly restoring marriages across this crazy place called earth. He's restoring and healing them all the time but ONLY those who are willing to learn and grow and change. He can't force your marriage to improve. He's going to invite you today to think differently about some things. He's going to invite you to be selfless but it's up to YOU whether you actually listen to His voice and enter that healing process.

■ // Main Point #1 In communication, there is “what is said” and “what is heard” Learn to understand “what is heard”

- **Often, the issue isn't the issue. It's how your action made the other person feel.**
- *Funny Story*
 - *We were on our way*
- *Not Funny Story - Something I had to learn - Coming up from the Studio on time.*
 - *I Make music on fridays - it's my day off to do whatever I want - which is usually something creative. I love creating anything - usually a song - sometimes work on real estate - a house - but usually a song. A song can really pull you in. I mean I LOVE creating a song for an artist. Typically I add about 80% of the parts so as you can imagine that takes time. And we had to learn how to set boundaries.*
 - *I'd often say "Ill be up at 3:30" then I'd be late bc after all "I got all day"*
 - **METHOD for RESOLVING IT:**
 - *She told me "when you're late and stay in the studio till 4:30 when you told me 3:30, it makes me mad. It makes me feel like you don't want to come help me with the kids."*
 - *I told her "get over it" Just Kidding. I said I'm sorry and I committed to changing that behavior. At first I was defensive "It's not a big deal. We have all night together. I really need to edit these drums." Doesn't matter. If my action made her FEEL a certain way, then I need to be a mature husband - a Christ-following, Bible-based husband who CARES about how she feels and ADJUSTS my actions to ensure she feels HONORED.*
- Remember ... **The issue isn't always the issue. It's the way the issue made them feel.**
- ■ **As a Christ-follower, our first chance to follow Christ and honor Him is in our marriage - caring about how our actions make our spouse feel.**
- ■ **VIDEO "HONORING YOUR HUSBAND"**
- Women you have a choice as to how you will speak to your husband - down to them as if they are your child OR speak to them as if they are your lover, your spouse.
- But men listen, WOMEN tend to multiply what you give them.
- Give them a house, they make it a home and give you children.
- Give them some ingredients they can whip up a meal that feeds 20 or 30 people!
- Give a woman a ...
- They multiply what they're given.
- Give them a problem, they will (lol)
- ■ **MEN LISTEN, joking aside, if you don't like what you're getting, look at what you're giving.**
- Are you treating her with honor? Are you treating her with kindness and respect and care? If not, she might just be multiplying what you're giving her.


When you disagree on something, how are you treating her, men?

Are you treating her with kindness and gentleness OR are you demanding your way - like an immature child?

God created the two of you to work together!

Genesis 1:27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Men and women were created to work together and one compliments the other. You wonder “why does she think so differently than I do?” or women think “What is his problem? How does he see it that way?” Men and women are made to collaborate and work together. You ARE different and you will approach problems and situations differently. The key then is not to vilify the other person but see their solution as a possible solution. The key is to see their opinion about it as valid as yours. The key is to love them and be humble enough to listen, to collaborate and to work together. In the togetherness you reveal the heart of God. In the togetherness you reveal the nature of God.

 **// Main Point #2** Men are wired to need respect. Women are wired to need love (care). When she doesn't get the love she needs, she reacts. When he doesn't get the respect he needs, he reacts. Know what your spouse needs.

- God designed men and women differently. Our culture tries it's best to say we are the same but we're not. We are equal, of course. Equally loved by God and valued but we are different and God did this *by design*. The question then is this, are you aware of what your spouse needs the most? We are equal in value but NOT equal in design.
- Many would want to say that “well our relationship is complex ... it's much more complicated than that.” Is it really though? Because research shows it's actually very simple and the Bible says it's simple. Men need to feel respected. Women need to feel cared for, loved, secure.

Why Do We Hear More About Love in Marriage Than Respect?

Research shows that women are more expressive-responsive in marriage.

In today's love-dominated society, a woman tends to talk far more about her need for love than her husband speaks about his need for respect.

We need to think biblically, not just culturally. Biblically there are two sides to the marital coin: love AND respect. Though Paul penned the Love Chapter (1 Corinthians 13) and Peter walked with the Lord of Love for three years, neither command a wife to agape-love her husband.

Only the husband is commanded to agape-love his wife (Ephesians 5:25, 28, 33).

Both Peter and Paul reveal that the secret for a wife is to show unconditional respect (1 Peter 3:1-2; Ephesians 5:33). This empowers her.









Though it seems counter-intuitive and counter-cultural, unconditional respect is as powerful to a husband as unconditional love is to a wife. This truth needs to be put back on the marital radar screen.

The Misunderstanding About Respect

Isn't the Opposite True: Gals Need R-E-S-P-E-C-T and Guys Need L-O-V-E?

- We all need love and respect equally. **However during conflict, a wife leans toward love and a husband toward respect.**
- When a wife requests R-E-S-P-E-C-T, often she desires to be treated and honored as an equal (1 Peter 3:7). Feeling like a second-class citizen (on par with a doormat) sends her through the roof!
- When a husband wishes to feel L-O-V-E between them, it revolves around her liking him **as a friend**. He does not feel the love between them when she is unfriendly and negative (Titus 2:4).
 - **Titus 2:4** Encourage the young women to love [“phileo,” not “agape”] their husbands ...
 - **1 Peter 3:7** Husbands ... grant her honor [the Greek word means “valuing”] as a fellow heir of the grace of life ...If a wife is consistently unfriendly and negative, the husband feels “She doesn't love me anymore” If however she chooses to be positive and affirming and fun to be around, he feels loved and the environment feels healthy.
- ■ **Ephesians 5:33** “Each man must love his own wife and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.”
- STORY> *(can have some pain in this one if the first one you shared was funny) doesn't have to be YOUR marriage story but tell one that is real - human element - bring them IN through the power of story-telling.*
- Daniele Hage says in her podcast ■ **“There will never be a woman more sensitive than a man on the inside. There will never be a man stronger than a woman on the inside.” continued...** “Women have no idea how truly sensitive men are and how their behavior towards their husband is so vital to their well-being. His wife's love and nurturing, respect and admiration

is so incredibly important to a man's well-being. He just won't say it. He'll be silent about their feelings. But trust me women, Men want to be your hero. You have so much power in your words, women! Use them to admire and respect your husband. He likely won't tell you he needs it but he does."

-  **"Love" to a woman can be understood and felt in the following ways:**
 -  **Time Together**
 - **Did you ever hear of the 1-1-1-1 Marriage Rule?**
 - 1 Week of Vacation per year alone with no kids!
 - 1 Date Night per week alone with no kids!
 - 1 Each spouse initiates sexual intimacy one time every single week
 - Your spouse did not marry you to have a room-mate. Initiate sex. Show them that you love them.
 - 1 30 minute block of no screen time to connect every single night
 - It's remarkable how much better your marriage can be if you'll put the phone down. Nothing wrong w phones and social media. But for some of you, your spouse is feeling that phone is more important to you than them. Show them it's not.
-  **"Love" to a woman can be also understood in the following ways:**
 -  **Financial Support**
 -  **Domestic Support** ie Help Around The House
 - Most women have a felt need (given by God) to have the house tidy; it's nurturing, creating a nest for their children, guests... Men just don't see it. Choose to be helpful the minute she asks.
 -  **(I asked Danielle and she gave me this...)**
 -  **"MARRIAGE CAN BE INTERESTING" VIDEO bc men and women are different!**
-  **"Love" to a man can be understand and felt by:**
 - Affirmation - TELL HIM what you think he's doing well and what you like
 - Affection - touch his neck, give him a kiss, flirt with him, initiate sex
 - Hobby - do something FUN together

Let's talk about affection for a minute - sexual intimacy

1 Corinthians 7:1-5 Principles for Marriage **"**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.”

Many people don't realize this verse. Many Christians don't realize they are putting their spouse in jeopardy of temptation by withholding sex from them. That's what the Bible says. You're to GIVE yourself to one another.

Remember, your spouse did not marry you because they wanted a room-mate. They love you and want to express that love and deserve to feel that love from you.

Jesus wants you to be holy and you can help your spouse be holy by fulfilling their sexual needs. That is explicitly what you just read in the Bible.

Eph 5:27 He JESUS wants to present her (CHURCH) with glory - without blemish, holy.

YOU can help your spouse be holy by giving yourself sexually to your spouse.

One of the things that will hinder your sex life FAST is rude, demeaning speech. Instead of being loving, kind, gentle.

Some of you are thinking “But they haven't yet apologized for saying what they said! I'm still mad at them and I have a RIGHT to be mad at them!” Do you though?

1 John said to FIRST FORGIVE

God forgave us before we repented - forgive your spouse before they even apologize.

God is purifying you and He uses your MARRIAGE to bring the impurities in your heart to come to the surface!

// Main Point #3 You can break the crazy cycle! Women, by intentionally showing respect to your husband. Men, by intentionally showing love to your wife.

- LISTEN for what your spouse is consistently asking for. Is there a way you can SHOW love to them in the way that means most TO THEM?
- *Campus Pastor - Tell a story here of how you have learned to show love to your wife in the way that SHE wants to be loved.*

- **📖 These actions will make the husband feel disrespected (& cause him to deflate)**
 - **Rude Speech / Especially in Public**
 - **Demanding Speech instead of Asking Question / Asking for Help**
 - Women often don't realize that by using words that sound like control will drive a man away faster than anything. Men did not marry their mom. Don't treat him like he's your son - bossing him around. Men married their bride.
 - **Correcting him on something that is small and can be done multiple ways**
 - Daniele Hage says in her podcast (an excellent podcast btw) "Women, stop correcting your man over the most simple of tasks. If he loads the dishwasher differently than you would, don't tell him "you're doing it wrong." There are multiple ways to load a dishwasher and it turns out they will still get clean.
 - **📖** *"Wives, when your husbands do something differently than how you would do it, it does not constitute a breach of sanity or a display of contempt. It's merely a different way of doing something. Don't make everything a "right" and "wrong" way of doing something. Instead of immediately correcting him or micromanaging, first see if there's something you can learn. Then see if the job gets done the goal in the first place. And then, give your husband a compliment. After all, you like those too right?" Daniele Hage*
 - **📖 Complaints without Compliments**
 - If you only choose to voice your complaints but never your compliments your husband will feel absolutely like he is failing at trying to make you happy. If making you happy is impossible (if compliments are never given) he may even give up trying. Don't drive him away with constant complaining and negative speech.

Listen when you're mad at one another, you have to keep a posture of forgiveness and an attitude of giving grace. (FUNNY) **Look one couple told me great advice this week - advice based on Scripture. They knew I was preaching on marriage and told me "Look the key is to not go to bed angry" So Danielle and I tried that. We haven't sleep in 8 days.**


- **📖 These actions will make the wife feel unloved (& cause her to deflate)**
 - **Not listening / cutting her off**
 - Women need to feel heard and they need to be able to express their feelings without you supplying a solution or answer. Simply acknowledge and empathize. One author who has sold millions of his book His Needs Her Needs made a good observation and tip: Women, tell your husband what TYPE of conversation you're

about to have. Is this “just listen” or is this “solve it for me” Men, feel free to ask your wife “Is this something you want me to solve? Or is this a “just listen” conversation. This doesn’t make men “rude” It makes them men. Men are wired by God to solve a problem and be solution-oriented.

- **Lazy or a man unwilling to work hard**
- Nothing puts off a woman more than a man who isn’t a hard-worker. Men, your wife deserves a man who is willing to work hard to provide for her and her babies. *We at Rock of Grace fully understand that every marriage is different AND every season of life is unique - some with more financial challenges than others. We realize that many couples are dual income and that makes total sense in today's economy and even Biblically, that Prov 31 woman is working nonstop lol But it is NEVER appropriate for the man to sit on his but all day and expect his wife to work 9 to 5 and pay the bills. Ladies if you’re dating a guy like that, drop him like a bag of old french fries and run.
- **Ignored - time doing a hobby that doesn’t include her or consider her**
- Men, when you got married, you gave up your right to have a hobby that takes you away from your house once or twice a week. IMO, part of “loving your wife the way Christ loves the church” is by spending time as a parent and husband. It doesn’t mean you can’t have hobbies but you need to ensure your wife is not frustrated with your hobby taking too much time away from her. If she tells you it is, adjust. Don’t insist your own way. That selfishness not only will drive a wedge between you and your bride but it doesn’t honor the Lord.
- **Pornography**
- 1 Cor. 6:12-20 teaches us that when we accept Jesus as LORD and Savior that we no longer can make the claim “I can do whatever I want.” Which is what Paul argues in this passage. Christ is LORD if we’re truly following Him and that means we have to surrender any “right” we feel to an addiction that we’ve normalized. 12 “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything. 13 You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! 16 Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” 17 But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.[c]
- **18** Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. **19** Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; **20** you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

- Millions of men (and women btw) who are Christians have normalized their porn addiction. If that's you, repent of it and let God renew your mind and restore your marital intimacy.

So we will all face times when our spouse simply being offensive. When we aren't getting along. When tensions rise and friendship is low and sexual intimacy is low and sometimes our spouse is just having a rough day.

- What do I do when my spouse is rude or says something that hurts?
- How do you keep the hope of intimacy alive when your spouse offends you?
-  **“There WILL be times your spouse disappoints you - absolutely. It will happen. They will offend you. They'll have an off day. They'll say something you don't like. When your spouse behaves in a way that puts you off, the narrative you choose to believe about WHY will determine if trust stays high or low in a relationship.” - Pastor Aaron Brockett**

Long healthy marriages (yes imperfect, but healthy) are a result of two people who choose to believe the BEST of the other person's intentions.

If your spouse says something “off” or seems “off” to you, instead of getting offended and “going off” or “shutting down” (silent treatment) why don't you instead lean in to it - ask “Honey are you ok? You seem stressed about something. Is there something you need to vent about or something I can do to help?”

Usually it's something EXTERNAL (at work...) they just need to vent about.

However, if it's YOU, something you're doing to tick them off, LISTEN without getting defensive. Maybe, just maybe, you are doing something that feels rude to them. It's possible you need to adjust and change course.

Dr Emerson says “We always assume the best of ourselves and the worst of the other. Like this “I'm a reasonable person. It's him that's being childish.”

Or he will think... “I'm a reasonable person. I'm just stressed out and for good reason. It's her that being a jerk.” Well maybe. But maybe you're just

stressed out and need to find ways to manage your stress instead of assuming your spouse is fire-breathing dragon bent on vengeance.

Assume the BEST of each other.

Don't assume your spouse is trying to make your life miserable.

In some cases they are lol but most often, they are NOT trying to make your miserable! Assume the best of them.

I got to sneak one more point in here when it comes to conflict. It's related to a point I made earlier but nonetheless I gotta say bc I'm really trying to help you guys. I REALLY want your marriages to succeed, Rock of Grace!

Can I tell you something about conflict - about agitation - maybe he just needs to have sex.

Just saying.

That's a thing. Maybe you're young in your marriage and you don't know that little tip yet - but hey - now ya do. There's probably a lot of problems that can be solved with some good love-making. lol

Just saying.

Again, the ISSUE usually isn't the ISSUE. Remember how I opened up the sermon?! The issue sometimes is NOT that he hates going to that event or hates dressing up or hates shopping with you (well, maybe he hates s

Women, learn the POWER you have over your man.

Just touching his neck - can change things drastically!

By the way I don't mean GRABBING his neck like "I'M GONNA KILL YOU if you forget one more time!!!!"

LOL

I'm talking about a little, lite rub on his neck - brush your fingers through his hair and watch him MELT. Listen you don't believe me? Try it.

 **// Main Point #4** Learn to LAUGH. Most of what is fought over should be laughed about.

- Pastor Mark Biel when teaching about marriage always said that the five H's of a health marriage are Honesty, Holiness, and... HUMOR. Learn to laugh. You're different. It's

funny! Don't get upset about your spouse thinking differently than you do or naturally doing something a different way than you. Either A, learn something new or B, laugh.

- **■ MARRIAGE CAN BE INTERESTING VIDEO**
- LEARN TO LAUGH people! Life is funny. Marriage is funny. Shoot, sex can be funny! You and your spouse should be able to laugh about A LOT of things in the covenant of marriage - when you are with your BEST FRIEND in life!
- When you freak out over something that could just be funny, you're showing disrespect and not showing love. Assume the best of your spouse. It's very likely they didn't do what they did maliciously. It's likely they did it because it was in their opinion, the right thing to do in that moment in time.
- **■** "Whatsoever is good, lovely, pure and good report, encouraging, focus on these things." Philippians 4:8 (put on ONE slide) Whatever you're looking for you will find. If you want to find areas of division, you will find them. If you want to find something to be mad about, you'll find it. The Enemy is the Accuser and he'll do his best to get you to agree. You can accuse your spouse of where they're failing you (and may even be valid in it) but it doesn't mean you should. Instead, praise them for what they're doing well.
- In business development there's a phrase that goes like this "Whatever you focus on grows." This is true in marriage as well. Focus on the weak or annoying features of your spouse and guess what, they'll grow in your mind and you'll be more and more annoyed. Focus on their strengths - what they're good at - think about them - compliment your spouse and guess what - that will 'grow' btw in leading people John Maxwell gives a line that says "People will do more of what you complement them on" So compliment them on that thing that you're proud of!
- Completing one another
Our differences help us become complete. Don't try to make your spouse like you! They are like they are because they are NOT like you so that TOGETHER you are one COMPLETE person that glorifies Christ.
- **Mt 19:3** Jesus said "Haven't you read that God made male and female for each other - no longer two bodies but one."
- **People will naturally look for the legal way to get out of the "contract"**
- **I love how they said marriage is a covenant not a contract. By definition - contract is about contracting and constricting - think about that. It's defined by it's negatives. But a covenant is different. It's defined by it's blessings. It's saying "I covenant to bless you and serve you and make your life enjoyable"**
- **Mt 19:7-9**
- Moses provided for concession for abuse and adultery - but Jesus said "I'm holding you to the original plan. Yes there are cases where there's adultery and then it is permitted to divorce." But Jesus is saying

- **A heart that GOD creates is a heart that looks for reasons to love and give grace - not accuse and berate.**
 - Two people are growing in their faith and becoming like Christ - together - at the same time.
 - Maturing is necessary for a marriage to last. You **MUST** be willing to change your habits - the way you speak - the attitudes you hold. You must learn to **LAUGH** instead of get so offended so quickly. That's an **IM**mature person who is often offended. Don't let little things offend you. Get over them. Often they're funny.
 - **Jesus said "Not everyone is mature enough to live a married life." Mt 19:10**
-
- Remember - compliments or complaints. What do you focus on? If you think and say "I'm trapped. I'm stuck." Then you will **FEEL** stuck.
 - Instead, focus on being a blessing to your spouse and that this is a covenant - where you are committing to serve and love that person and do your part no matter what!

Let's make a commitment to improving our marriages.



Men, give your wife the LOVE they need and crave.

Women, give your husband the RESPECT they need and crave.



RESOURCES FOR MORE GROWTH IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Before we close the sermon and ask God to bring some healing and we spend some time in reflection, we wanted to give you some great resources:

Podcasts:

The Naked Marriage Podcast (yes it's Christian and it's excellent)

Daniele Hage Podcast

IG / FB to follow:

Ultimate Intimacy App

Love and Respect Dr Emmerson Eggerichs

Apps:

Messenger X by John Bevere - Story of Marriage Group Videos

Books:

The Story of Marriage - John and Lisa Bevere

Love and Respect - Dr Emmerson Eggerichs

Hope For Your Marriage - Clayton and Ashlee Hurst

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PART 2 / WEEK 2 ideas and notes

When the Bible says that love is the greatest of these (1 Corinthians 13:13), Paul is comparing love to faith and hope, not to respect (Ephesians 5:33). We must accurately handle the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

God made us male and female. Thus, a husband is not wrong for needing respect, just different from his wife. A wife is not wrong for needing love, just different from her husband. A wise person sees these differences and celebrates them.

Genesis 1:27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Men and women were created to work together and one compliments the other. You wonder “why does she think so differently than I do?” or women think ‘What is his problem? How does he see it that way?’ Men and women are made to collaborate and work together. You ARE different and you will approach problems and situations differently. The key then is not to vilify the other person but see their solution as a possible solution. The key is to see their opinion about it as valid as yours. The key is to love them and be humble enough to listen, to collaborate and to work together. In the togetherness you reveal the heart of God. In the togetherness you reveal the nature of God.

Matthew 19:4 Have you not read, that He who created [them] from the beginning made them male and female?

1 Peter 3:7 ... since she is a woman ...

1 Thessalonians 2:7 ... As a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.

Isaiah 54:6 Like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit ... like a wife ... when she is rejected ...

Jeremiah 30:6 Ask now, and see, if a male can give birth ...

1 Corinthians 16:13 ... act like men, be strong.

Nehemiah 4:14 ... fight for ... your wives ...

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands ... live with your wives in an understanding way ... since she is a woman ...

Proverbs 19:14 ... a prudent wife ...

Don't Some Wives Feel Uncomfortable Showing Respect to a Husband?

Some contend showing respect makes a husband superior and a wife inferior. However, the Bible is clear: in the eyes of God a husband and wife are equal.

As for a wife's feelings of discomfort, a wife need not feel respect in order to show respect. And, showing respect does not mean giving a husband license to do whatever he desires. Peter, who teaches unconditional respect, watched the wife of Anania--her name was Sapphira--drop dead because she went along with her husband in lying to God (Acts 5:1-11). A wife needs to respectfully take a stand. Unconditional respect means, "There is no condition, circumstance, or situation that can get me to show contempt to my husband."

Unconditional respect means a wife gives the gift of a respectful demeanor when confronting a husband's wrong behavior. This is about who she is, not about who he isn't.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **1 Peter 3:7** Husbands ... grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life ...

1 Corinthians 7:4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

1 Corinthians 11:11 ... in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.

1 Samuel 18:20f; 6:16f Michal ... loved David ... Then ... Michal despised him in her heart ... **1**

Titus 3:11 Women likewise must be dignified ...

Proverbs 31:25 ... dignity ... her clothing ...

What if a Husband Doesn't Deserve Respect?

- When he fails to love as he ought, he doesn't deserve respect. However, this isn't about him deserving respect but about him needing respect.
- By way of analogy, Hosea the prophet was to win his adulterous wife by loving her. She was neither lovable nor deserving, but she needed love.
- Similarly, Peter instructs wives to win a disobedient husband through respectful behavior. A disobedient husband is neither respectable nor deserving, but contempt will not win him. To win a husband, a wife cannot show disdain any more than a husband can show hostility to win a wife.
- Sadly, because the culture teaches that respect must be earned (whereas love is to be unconditional), women have been given license to express, "I love you but don't respect you." However, that's comparable to a husband declaring, "I respect you but do not love you."

Luke 6:32 And if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?

Hosea 3:1 Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an adulteress ...

1 Peter 3:1-2 Even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your ... respectful behavior.

Are You Saying He Needs Unconditional Respect Equal to Her Need for Unconditional Love?

- Like needing oxygen, she needs unconditional love and he needs unconditional respect. Both have equal needs though these needs are not the same.
- Unconditional love means there is no circumstance that can get a husband to show hostility toward his wife. That's his dogged decision. She does not make him harsh and hostile but reveals these things about him.
- Unconditional respect means there is no situation that can get a wife to be derisive. That's her weapon of choice.
- Unconditional respect is a biblical teaching.

1 Peter 2:17 Honor all men; love the brotherhood ... honor the king.

1 Peter 2:18 ... respect ... those who are good and gentle, but also... those who are unreasonable.

Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.