

Sum of the Parts – Part 1

A + B < C

Scene 1: The Birthday Card from h____

Actors needed: Director, Narrator, Paul, and Mary

Narrator: Paul and Mary have been dating for 14 months. They very much love each other and can envision marrying some day. Paul works a demanding job at an IT firm in Concord. Mary works in uptown at a regional bank. Tomorrow is Mary's birthday and Paul decides to surprise her with a dinner. While in a mad rush to leave work and get home on time, Paul stops by a CVS to pick up a Birthday card. In his haste, he accidentally purchases a Get Well card.

Paul: (Enters Mary's apartment): Hi Hun, how was your day?

Mary: Ok. Lots of stuff going on. My boss is pressing all of us to make the end of quarter numbers. By the way, are we going some where, you look great.

Paul: I know your birthday is tomorrow, however, what do you say that we get some dinner this evening before the Friday crowds tomorrow night?

(Paul Hands her a car and flowers)

Mary: Ah, thank you sweet heart. You are awesome. Sure. That sounds fantastic. Let me go change.

(Mary opens card – long silence)

Paul: Is everything ok?

Mary: uh Paul – what is this? She reads the card to say good luck in your long and difficult recovery

Paul: (realizing his mistake) – Ooops sorry hun (while sarcastically laughing). Must have been in a rush

Mary: What is that supposed mean?

Paul: Why are you getting so upset – it was an honest mistake?

Mary: I expected better from you!

Paul: I do not understand?

Mary: What kind of idiot purchases get well card on a person's birthday?

(Long silence – Paul says nothing)

Mary: It is my 25th birthday and this is how you show your love for me?

Paul: You are being very disrespectful

Paul: Aw, Screw you!

Mary: Oh shut up you sniveling scum bag.

Paul: (while slamming her apartment door and leaves): Have a good night – this night is over.

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Scene 2: You are late!

Actors needed: Director, Narrator, Kyla, and Kevin

Narrator: Kevin and Kyla have been dating for 18 months. They very much love each other and can envision marrying some day. Kevin is a JR at NC State majoring in engineering and Kyla is JR at High Point University. Earlier in the week, Kevin sent Kyla a short email regarding plans to get together for dinner near High Point, NC on Friday at 7PM. Kevin's lacrosse practice ran late + he got pulled into a volley ball game at the dorm. A buddy gives him a ride to High Point, however, Kevin is about 2.5 hours late. Kyla has been dressed and ready to go since 6:30 PM.

Kevin: (Waiting at the security entrance of the dorm lobby): Hi Hun, how did exams go? How was your week?

Kyla: (Pissed off and very quite): Had a good week.

Kevin: Is everything ok. You look mad?

Kyla: No kidding Sherlock Holmes. Did you need a team of Philadelphia Lawyers to figure that one out?

Kevin: Hu? What gives? Is there a problem?

Kyla: I will let you figure that one out.

Kevin: Figure what out?

Kyla: It's 9:30 PM and you said you were going to be here at 7:00 PM.

Kevin: ok. So what is the big deal? I am a bit late.

Kyla: A bit late? Two hours is more than a bit late wouldn't you say?

Kevin: I do not see what the problem is. Can we go? I am hungry.

Kyla: I expected better from you!

Kevin : I do not understand?

Kyla: What kind of idiot shows up 2 hours late for a date without a call, text, or email?

(Long silence – Kevin says nothing)

Kyla: It is this how you show your love for me?

Kevin: You are being very disrespectful

Kyla: Oh shut up you sniveling scum bag.

Kevin: (while slamming the dorm room door and leaves): Have a good night – this night is over.

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Scene 3: Another burnt offering

Actors needed: Director, Narrator, Sam and Stacey

Narrator: Sam and Stacey have been dating for 10 months. They very much love each other and can envision marrying some day. Stacey invites Sam over to her apartment for Dinner. Stacey is culinary arts major in Charlotte and wanted to showcase a new dish that she had learned. She thinks Sam is “her guy” and spends the entire day prepping a special dinner for him.

Sam: (Enters Stacey’s apartment): Hi Hun, how was your day?

Stacey: Good sweet heart. And you?

Sam: Great. Man, what smells so good?

Stacey: Aw, thanks. I put together a few things for dinner. I think you will like what I have prepared.

Sam: Awesome.

Narrator: After about 30 min of small talk, Sam and Stacey sit down for dinner.

Stacey: Noticing that she overcooked the entree – Darn it! This is the worst meal I ever made.

Sam: No it’s not hun!

Stacey: What are you saying?

(Long silence)

Stacey: If you do not like my cooking, why don’t go to your parents you mama’s boy so they can feed your fat face?

Sam: Baby, that is not what meant.

Stacey: (In an agitated state), ok, what did you mean?

Sam: (Also agitated and in a sarcastic voice). Well if you insist, think of this dinner as another burnt offering fitting for an ancient Hebrew Profit.

Stacey: You are such a jerk

Sam: Why are you getting so un-glued?

Stacey: I expected better from you!

Sam: I do not understand?

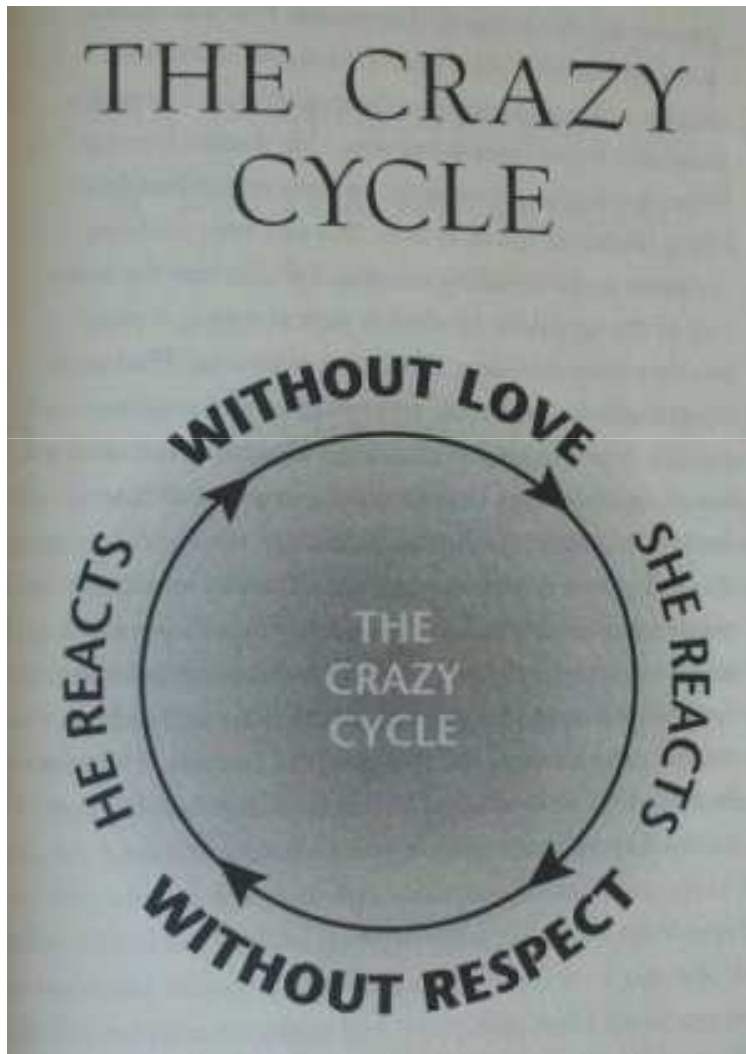
Stacey: Is this how you show your love for me?

Sam: You are being very disrespectful

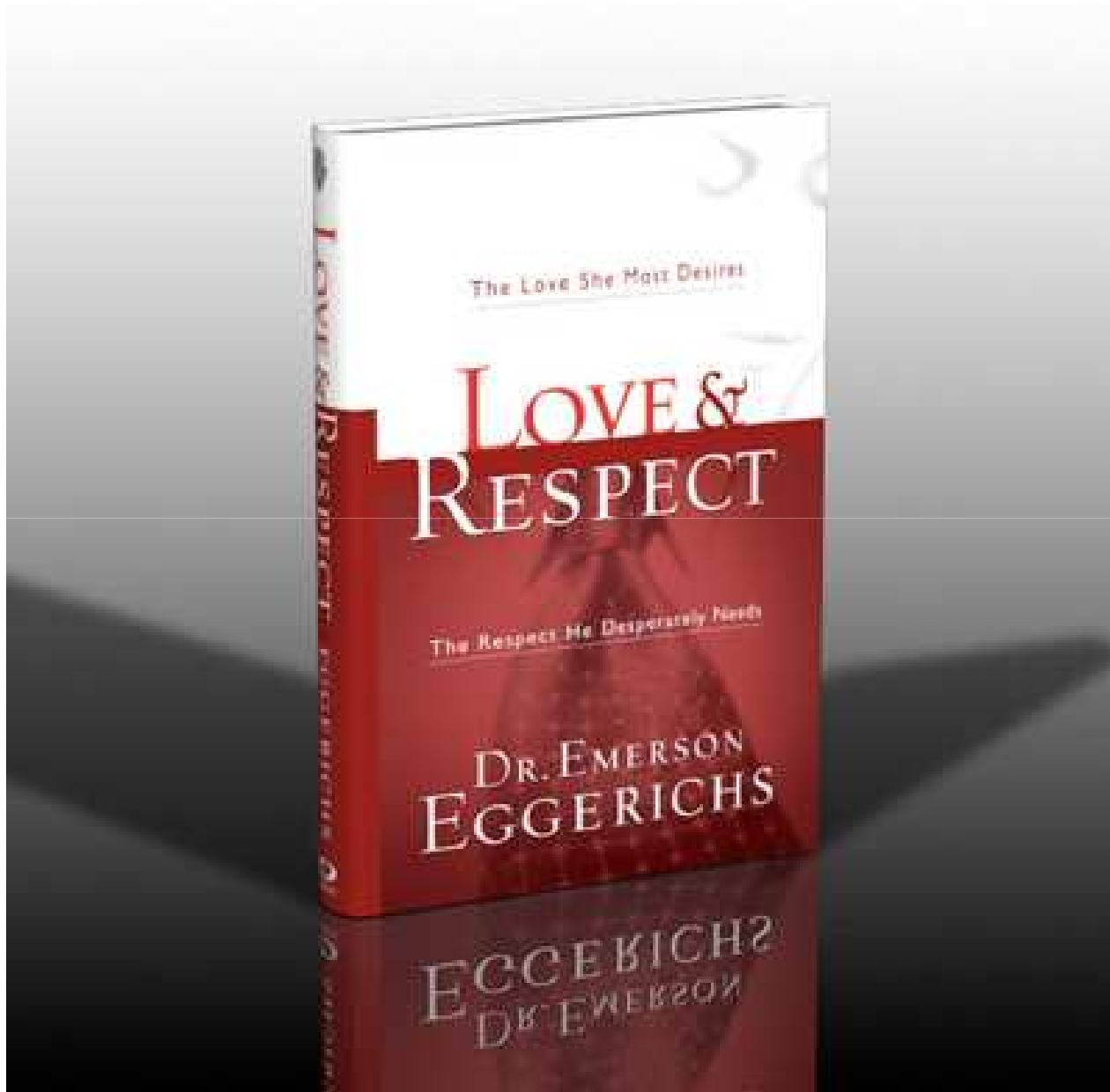
Stacey: Oh shut up you sniveling scum bag.

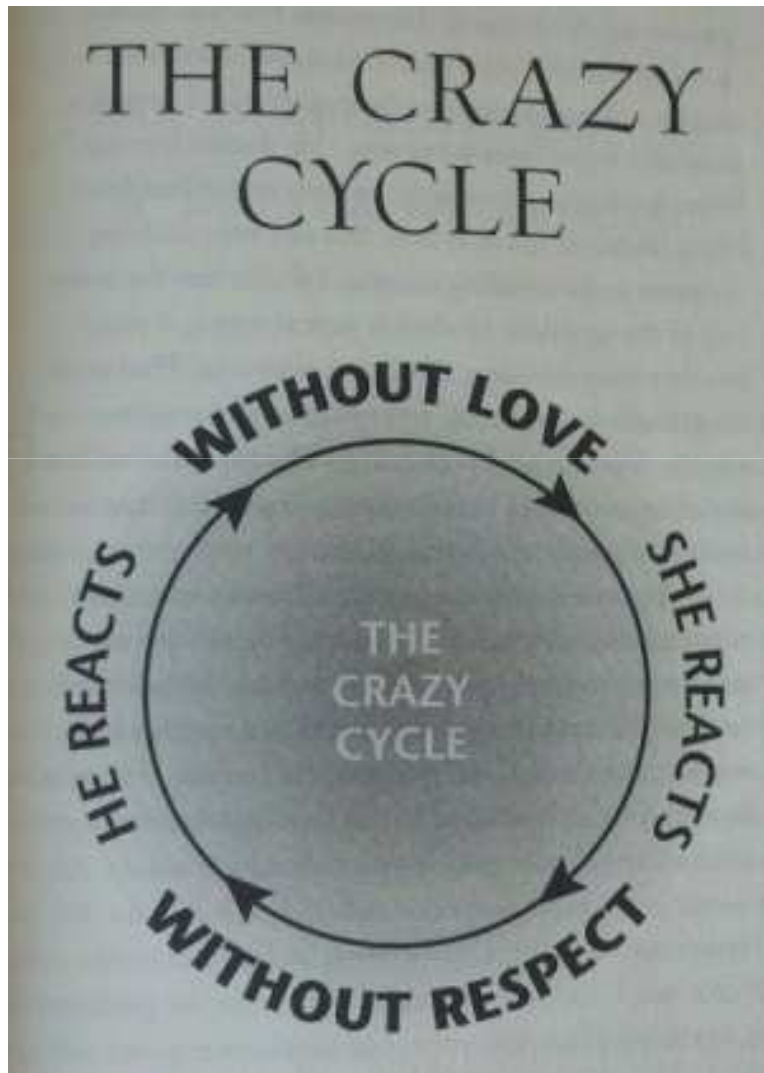
Sam: (while slamming her apartment door and leaves): Have a good night – this night is over.

Welcome to the crazy cycle!



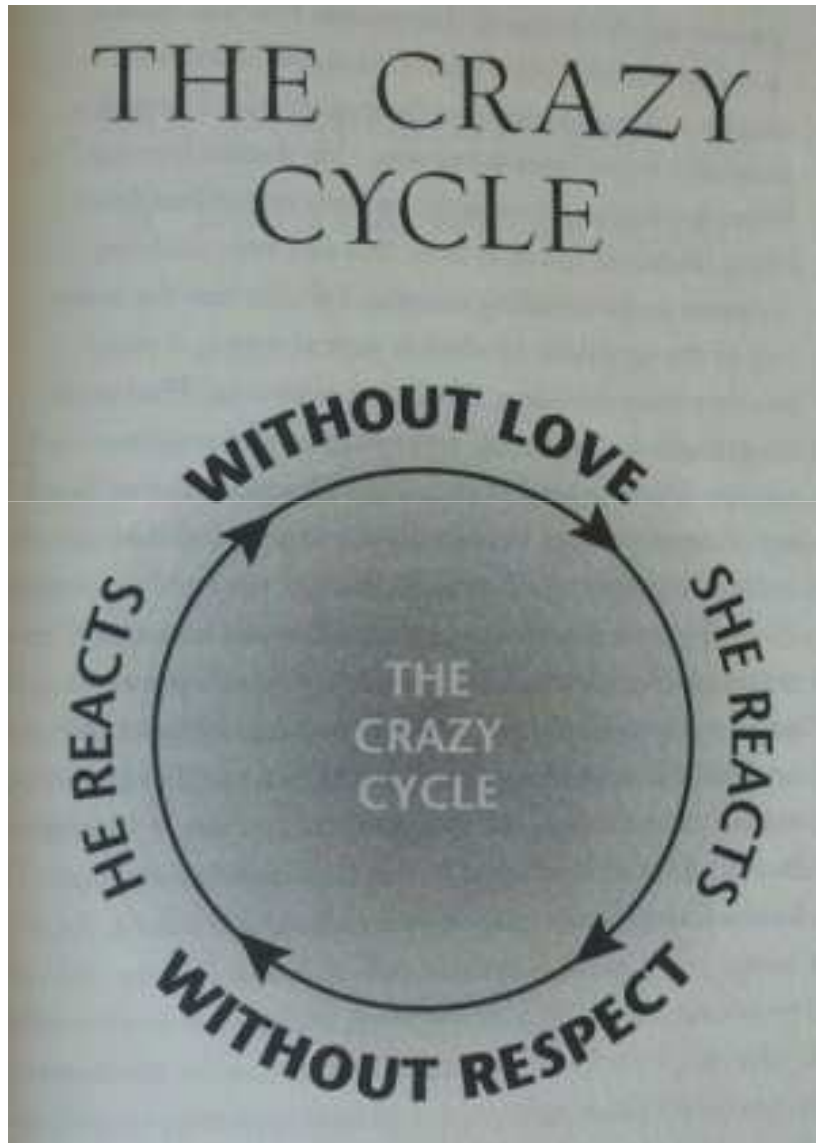
“The way of the a fool is
right in his own eyes”
Proverbs 12:15





Female perspective:

- A woman is designed by God to love and nurture. Thus, she is commanded by God to respect and honor.
- She confronts to connect in order to seek reassurance and clarification.
- She confronts to connect because she is feeling unloved.
- While confronting, she comes across as appearing to be disrespectful and dishonorable.
- When he withdraws in an argument (the honorable thing to do in his mind), she tries even harder to access his heart.
- The result is they start to wear each other out.



Male perspective:

- A man is designed by God to respect and honor, thus he is commanded by God to love.
- During confrontation, a man does the honorable thing and stays quite – which is perceived to be unloving to a women.
- During an argument, 85% of men will stonewall. Perceived to be unloving by a women.
- Withdrawing is perceived to be the honorable thing by a man because a man does not want to escalate more than the issue already has.
- Men were wired to be hunters and warriors. To avoid confrontation, the honorable thing is to say forget about it – let's deal with this later.
- Good willed people get on this crazy cycle because their sprit is willing by their flesh is weak. (A Peter not a Judas)

The money question:

400 men surveyed and were asked the following question:

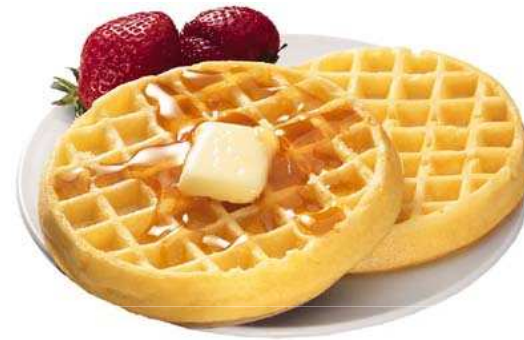
If you were forced to choose one of the following, which would you prefer to endure:

- a. to be left alone and unloved in the world
- b. to feel inadequate and disrespected by everyone

Show video

Men are like waffles and women are like spaghetti:

“God made us so that we can complement each other – however we can not complement what we do not understand.” *Pastor Steven – Fun House Part 2*



- Interconnected emotions and integrated personality
- “God made you to be beautifully complex” Pastor Steven
- Different by design
- Tangled webs of emotional involvement.
- “Words are connected to feelings which are connected to your actions” Emerson Eggerichs

- Men naturally compartmentalize
- Different by design
- Everything fits into one particular square
- Feelings and emotions are separated out from behavior
- Fix-it and move on.

The choice to Love: “Love is not a feeling, it’s a choice, a commitment.” Emmerson Eggerichs

Option #1 The Principled Relationship



- You both have something valuable to lose
- In the deeper undercurrent of the relationship, there is not ill will.
- You both have honorable intentions
- You both are good hearted
- Life has a way of creating manufactured tension when there is no evidence of a moral transgression. But willing to work it out.
- You have a “deep unity maintained by will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by the Grace which both partners ask and receive from God” (CS Lewis)

Option #2: Warfare



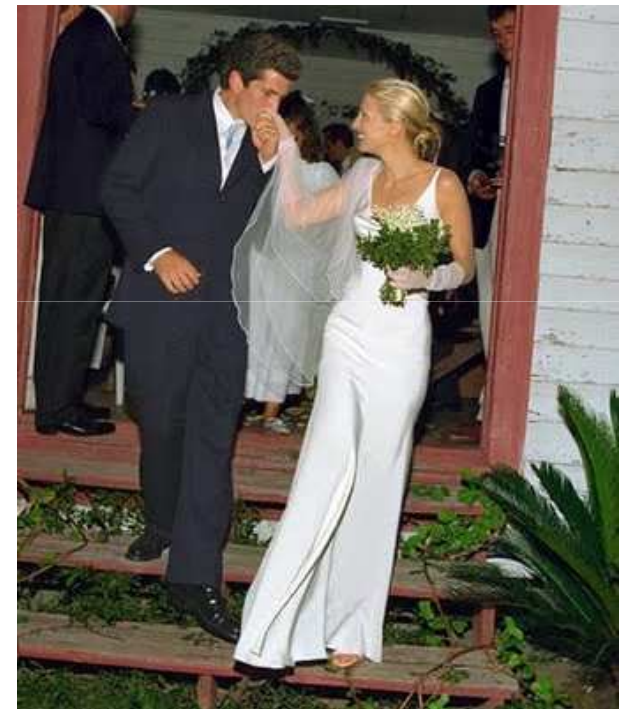
- Enjoy the thrill of the battle
- Slash and burn
- Evil and wicked behavior
- Evil willed and contemptuous
- Wining is the goal
- Losing is not an option
- Leverage and positioning are the tools to winning the daily battles
- Dominance is the goal

Rudder Trials – USS Nimitz – CVN 68 1990

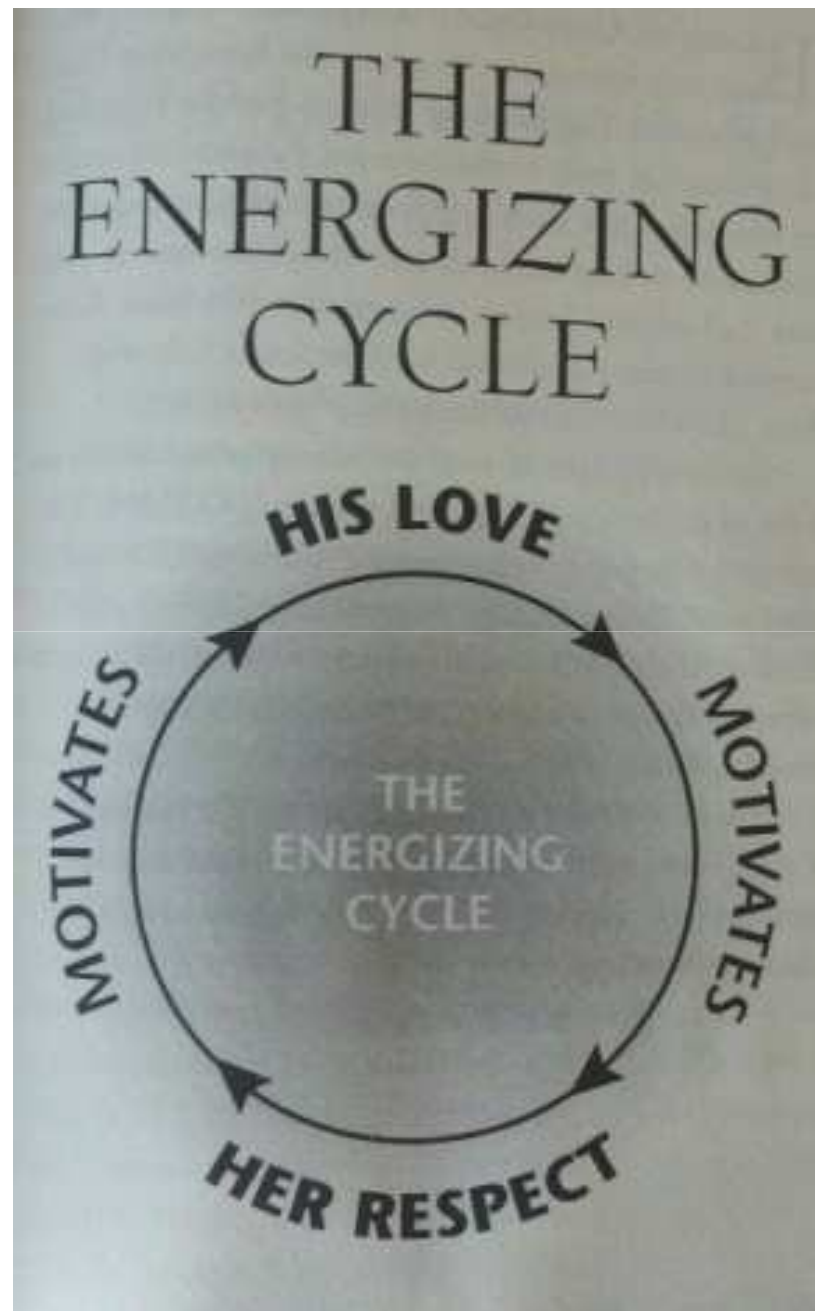


Vertigo – spatial disorientation – this can happen in relationships too

John and Carolyn Kennedy - 1999 – A flight from NJ to Martha's Vineyard – Cape Cod



Read a husband's story: "A Husband Decoded in Jail" page 80



For Men: When spatial disorientation happens – Go to your instrument panel:

Closeness:

- See Deuteronomy 24:5
- Hold hand and hugging
- Affectionate without sexual intensions
- Take walks together
- Make priority to spend time together
- Suggest the unexpected.
- Go out of your way to do something for her

Openness:

- See Songs of Solomon 5:2
- Share your feelings
- “Let’s talk”
- Active listening
- You pray with her

Understanding:

- See 1 Peter 3:7
- Man is not the stronger sex, we are equal and the same heirs to the throne of God
- Don’t try to fix problems unless she specifically asks for a solution.
- Attempt to ID feelings
- Cut her some slack during her monthly cycle
- Express appreciation for things that she does.



Esteem:

- See Psalm 34:15 – The Lord looks with favor on those who are Godly.
- See 1 Peter 1:3-7: Treat her in a way so that her prayers will not be hindered.
- “I am proud of the way that you handled that”
- Make her feel important
- You are proud of all that she does.
- You try something new with her

Loyalty:

- See Songs of Solomon 2:10
- State that you are committed
- Proverbs 5:15: “Drink water from your own well”
- Speak highly of her in front of others
- our marriage is a priority
- You have her back
- You keep your commitments

Peacemaking:

- See 1 Corinthians 7:3-4
- Even the best relationships have conflict.
- You let her vent her frustrations
- When you are wrong, admit it
- You negotiate, compromise, and defer. Meet her ½ way.
- Resolve the unresolved issues
- You forgive her
- Never nurse bitterness
- Reassure her of your love

For Women: When spatial disorientation happens – Go to your instrument panel:

Conquest:

- Appreciate his desire to work and achieve.
- You tell him that you value his work ethic
- You listen to his work stories
- Allow him to dream as you were when you were courting
- You don't dishonor or criticize his work
- Praise in public – reprimand in private.

Hierarchy:

- **See 1 Tim 5:8**
- Appreciate his desire to protect and provide – do not minimize this.
- You verbalize your admiration of him being a provider

Authority

- **See 1 Peter 3:7**
- Appreciate his desire to serve and lead.
- See Proverbs 31:16
- See Tutus 2:5
- See Ephesians 5:21 – Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- You praise his good decisions
- Disagree only in private



Relationship:

- **See Philippians 2:4**
- Appreciate his desire for shoulder to shoulder friendship
- You tell him that you like him and you show it.
- Ecc 3:7
- You respond to his invitation to engage in recreational activities.
- You enable him to talk or let him spend time alone or spend time with friends

Sexuality:

- After marriage, understand his desire for sexual intimacy
- I shall defer all discussion to a future married-couples eGroup.

Insight:

- Appreciate his desire to analyze and counsel.
- Tell him upfront that you only need his ear – not to fix something.
- You recognize his problem solving approach as his male brand of empathy.
- You let me know that God has made us male and female for a purpose and that we need each other.

Eph 5:33: God's last word on marriage:

Come close church, I have something important to say about marriage:

Ephesians 5:33: "a husband must love his wife and a wife must respect her husband"

Why did not God command a wife to love? Answer: "The Lord created women to love. Her whole approach is to nurture; her sensitivity, love, and compassion are part of her very nature. He is not going to command her to agape love her husband when he created her to do this in the first place. God is not in to redundancy." Emerson Eggerichs

What happens when you combine pink and blue?



Purple = the color of royalty (God)

“There is power when couples are reflected in God’s image.” Emerson Eggerichs

The ultimate A + B < C expression