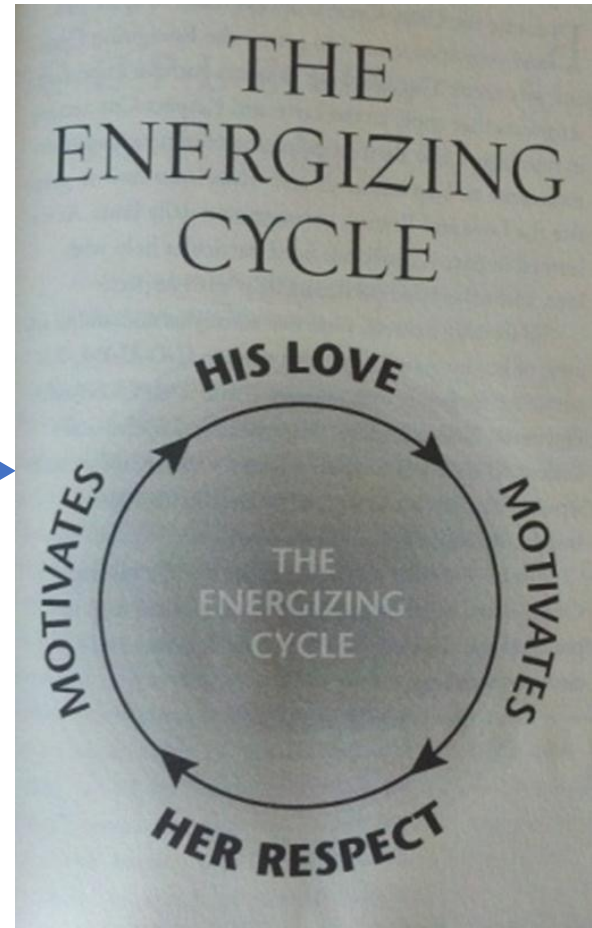
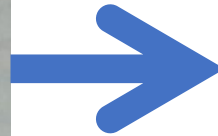
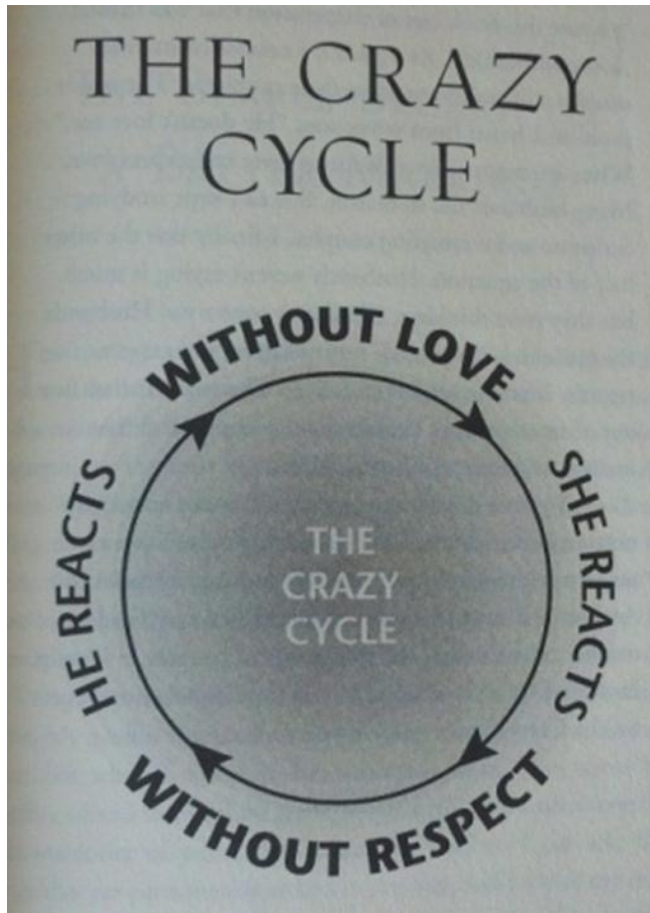


Session #2 with Kev and Ky

Wisdom from Pastor Stanley – habits to form and develop – none of this comes naturally – only chemistry and passion come naturally:

1 Cor 13	Pastor Stanley
Love is Patient	We are not to pressure the other person in to doing something that they do not want to do. Create time and margin needed by the other person.
Love is Kind (considerate)	Take into consideration what the other person feels
Love does not envy	“I don’t feel good about me and I am going to drag you down.” Don’t be angry when the other person enjoys success and happiness.
Love does not dishonor	God: I want you to transform my character so that I continue to honor so that I do not destroy what I will value later in my life.



C. S. Lewis

Clive Staples Lewis

11/29/1898 to 11/22/1963



“What we call “being in love” is a glorious state, and, in several ways, good for us. It helps to make us generous and courageous; it opens our eyes not only to the beauty of the beloved but to all beauty, and it subordinates (especially at first) our merely animal sexuality; in that sense. Love is the great conqueror of lust. No one in his senses would deny that being in love is far better than either common sensuality or cold self-centredness . . . Being in love is a good thing, but it is not the best thing. You can not make it the basis of your whole life. It is a noble feeling, but it is still a feeling. To Love and Be Loved in the second sense - love as distinct from “being in love” is not merely a feeling. **It is deep unity maintained by will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by the grace which both partners ask and receive from God.** . . . Being “in love” first moved them to promise of fidelity: this quieter love enables them to keep the promise. It is on this love the engine of marriage is run: being in love is the explosion that started it.”

Chapter 6, Mere Christianity by CS Lewis

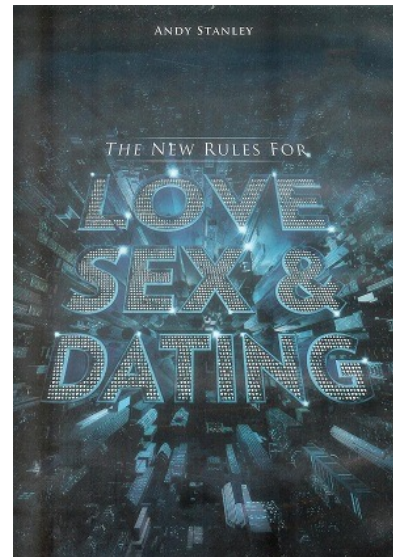
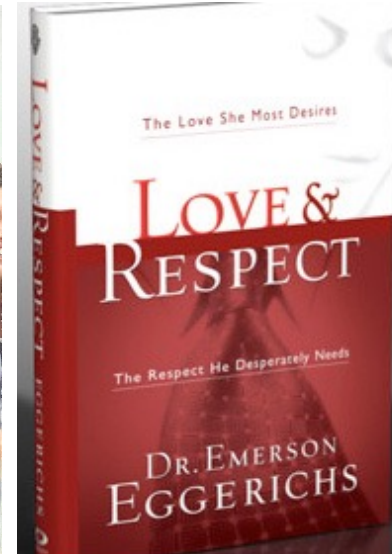
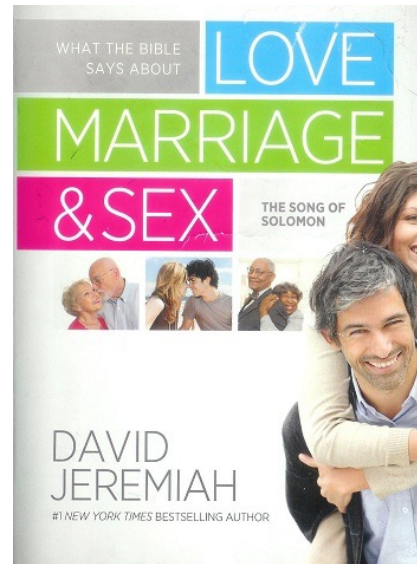
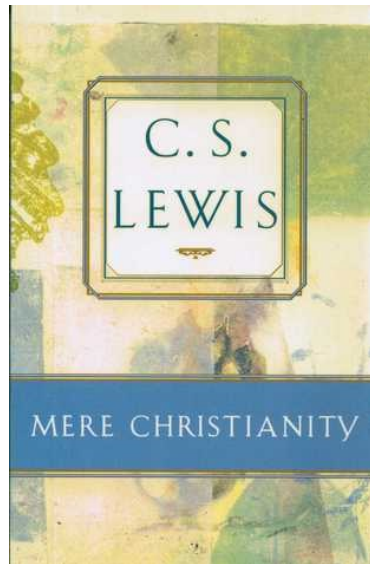
Dating... is complicated.

All of us come with baggage. It's part of the equation of our lives and gets most exposed when we meet that significant person who we care the most about. The close proximity reveals our deepest struggles and presents challenges that sometimes seem insurmountable. Yet, God established the institution of marriage and in the beginning created the union of man and woman, laying the groundwork for meaningful relationships and a marriage that will last.

We must get busy waiting on God, cultivating our hearts to prepare the soil for the things that we want to harvest in our lives. Allowing our lives to be grounded in truth and ready to enter into marriage as God intended it.

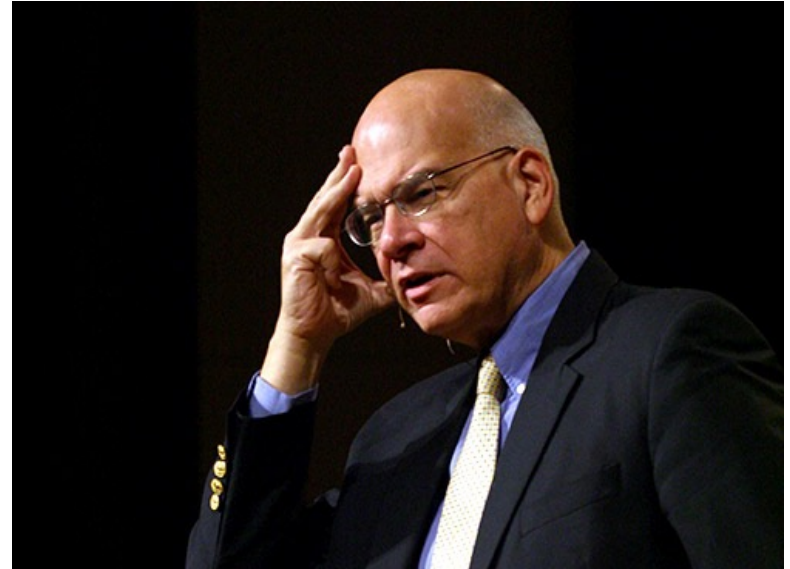
Micah 6:6 to 8: “With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Kev's all-star picks



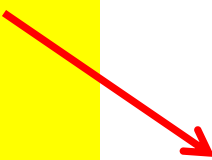
The main point by Dr. Timothy Keller:

“If the most profound, most joyful, most life changing, and glorious relationships are covenantal relationships, then your relationship with God has to be through and through a covenantal relationship. However, modern people have trouble mixing law and love together. The modern person say: I am spiritual but I am not religious. This means that I am spiritual and want a relationship with God, however, I do not want a covenantal relationship with God. . . . However, the bible says that that is impossible since the only relationship God wants is a covenantal relationship. In his relationship with Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, etc., it is always a covenantal relationship.”



There are only Two Types of Relationships – Tim Keller

Consumer Relationships

- I am in this thing as long as you are meeting my needs.
 - Everything is ordered around the experiencing individual self.
 - Everything is about the happiness and fulfilment of the individual self.
 - Your fulfilment and happiness is an individual right and a means to an end vs. all other institutions and relationship.
- 

Covenant Relationships

- One of the last things Moses says just before he dies in Deut: “you need to be in covenant relationship with God.”
- The relationship is more important than my needs.
- “A relationship that is more loving than a merely legal relationship, yet more binding, enduring, and accountable than a merely personal relationship.”
- “It is a stunning blend of law and love. It is stunning because it is personal relationship made more loving and intimate because it is legal.”
- Through binding and mutual vows to be loving and faithful no matter the circumstances.
- Note profiled well in modern society.
- “The most profound, most joyful, most life changing, most deep, and glorious relationships are covenantal relationships”.

On Marriage

Kahlil Gibran - 1883-1931

Then Almitra spoke again and said, And what of Marriage, master?

And he answered saying:

You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore.

You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter your days.

Ay, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God.

But let there be spaces in your togetherness,

And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.

Love one another, but make not a bond of love:

Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.

Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup.

Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf.

Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone,

Even as the strings of the lute are alone though they quiver with the same music.

Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.

For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.

And stand together yet not too near together:

For the pillars of the temple stand apart,

And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.

WHAT THE BIBLE
SAYS ABOUT

LOVE

MARRIAGE

& SEX

THE SONG OF
SOLOMON



DAVID
JEREMIAH

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

THE SONG OF SOLOMON

of Songs, which is Solo-

would kiss me with the
your⁺ mouth!
is better than wine,
ing oils are fragrant,
il poured out;
maidens love you.
ou, let us make haste.
brought me into his

rejoice in you;
ur love more than
ve you.

omely,
salem

12 While the king was on his couch,
my nard gave forth its fragrance

13 My beloved is to me a bag of myrror
that lies between my breasts.

14 My beloved is to me a cluster of henna
blossoms
in the vineyards of Es-ge-di.

15 Behold, you are beautiful, my love,
behold, you are beautiful,
your eyes are doves.

16 Behold, you are beautiful, my beloved,
truly lovely.

17 Our couch is green;
the beams of our house
our rafters

Per Dr. David Jeremiah: “Sex should not be an embarrassment to Godliness rather a reflection of it.” “The Bible does not shy away from any topic that is common to human experience and neither should we. . . . “

Jonathan Acuff: “We associate all the fun and excitement and coolness of life with the world and leave God all the boring discipline-flavored moments. He’s like eating broccoli . We know it is good for us, but it’s still broccoli. But, that cannot be right. God is wild. He’s consistently saying, “Let’s go find cliffs to jump off of, “ and, I know exactly what you need, because guess what, I put that need there. “”

Closing thoughts from Dr. David Jeremiah:

“Now we know the truth of what God thinks about sex.

How could anything so joyful, so essential, so life giving and not have his approval? After all, “Every good gift and every perfect give is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is not variation or show of turning (James 1:17). I don’t know of a more perfect gift than this one.

I also confess that it’s gratifying to write this chapter knowing that so many Christians have grown up in churches where sex is the ultimate dirty word. . . We realize those springs aren’t to flow and those gardens aren’t to be opened outside of marriage. But, to never mention its wonderful essential nature is like never acknowledging the beauty of a sunset (only the air pollution it reveals).

Money is an opportunity to reach unity in marriage. When couples work together, they can do anything.



COUPLES IN HEALTHY MARRIAGES ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO DISCUSS MONEY DREAMS TOGETHER



"GREAT" MARRIAGES



"OKAY" or "IN CRISIS" MARRIAGES

2017 STATE OF FINANCES IN THE AMERICAN HOUSEHOLD SURVEY
CONDUCTED BY RAMSEY SOLUTIONS

