

# Relational Renovation

*Beauty out of Brokenness* (Isaiah 61:1-3; Eph. 5:21-33)

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

## *Understanding the Crazy Cycle*

God desires to have an active role in our relationships!

After all, He's the Designer (*Gen 2:18; Mal. 2:15*); Developer (*Ro. 8:28,29*); Defender (*Col. 1:16,17*)  
In the context of Marriage God declared that: *"It's not good that the man should be alone.*

*I will make* (‘āšâ: prepare) *a help meet* (ezar: to aid, help) *for him.* " (neged: a counterpart!)

This tells us that God intentionally designed us different, in order to develop and *delight* us!

*These differences are designed to produce a healthy interdependency, On God and Each other!*

*While these differences may initially intrigue and attract us to each other... (Delight us!)*

*after marriage they tend to divide us! These differences cause most couples to hit a "wall of weird" that tends to frustrate & divide them. When we react to these differences in our typical pink/blue mentality, We often end up sabotaging our relationship.*

To this difference dilemma, God commands us to respond to our spouses,  
*Not According To Our Natures; But according to their Needs!* *Phil. 2:13; 4:13*

## 1. What do Husbands really "need" from their Wives?

Affection and Appreciation or "Love and Respect".

A. To meet these needs, God has designed The Wife's Roles to include:

1) Delightful Companionship: (*Mal 2:15; Eph. 5:22,23,33; Col. 3:18; 1 Pt. 3:1-7; Titus 2:4,5*) Involving their:

a) Affections: *"Love their husbands"*

b) Actions: *"sober, discreet, chaste"*

c) Attitudes: *"Good* (agathos: Useful), *obedient* (hupotasso: respectful subordination)

2) Domestic Creativity: Titus 2:5 *"Keepers at home"* (oikourgos')

From oikos: home, house, temple! And Ouros: guard, domestically inclined.

a) *Are there any noticeable differences between a Bachelor home and one where a woman lives?*

b) *They're designed to not only "redecorate" the home, but also the Heart!*

*"You decorated my life" sung by Kenny Rogers (1979) written by Bob Morrison/Debbie Hupp.*

B. When the Wife is the Creative Companion God's Designed, She meets her husband's needs of:

Love and Respect: Titus 2:4,5 *"love their husbands..."* Eph. 5:33 *"reverence* (in awe of) *her husband"*

1) *Do you think he's "awesome"?* (*There probably was a time when you did!*)

2) *Does he know you feel that way?* (*When and how's the last time you told him?*)

C. Becoming a Creative Companion will require:

1) Tenacity (*Commitment*)

2) Training (*Conditioning*) That's what Titus 2:4,5 means: *"Teach them..."*

## 2. What do wives really "Need" from their husbands?

To feel that they're loved, cherished, valued part of their lives. (aka: connected!)

(Love & Respect)

A. God designed and defined the Husbands Roles to include:

1) *"loving* your wife" Eph. 5:25

a) Unconditionally: *"as Christ loves"*

b) Sacrificially *"gave himself for it"*

c) Intelligently. 29 *"nourish & cherish"*

d) Intentionally. 26-29 *"sanctify and cleanse"* (also 1 Pt. 3:7)

- 2) **Leading your wife.** Eph. 5:23,24 *“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: And he is the saviour (soter’: deliverer, protector) of the body. Therefore As the church is subject to Christ, So let the wives be unto their husbands”*
- a) Most men resist this responsibility! *They feel inadequate and unprepared.*
- 1) Where are men trained to be good and godly leaders in the home? See Eph. 4:11,12; Titus 2:2, 6-8
- b) Many women will resent such leadership.
- 1) Leadership without Love produces Distrust and/or Resentment.
- 2) If we follow Christ, then those who follow us can have:
- a) Confidence (That we’re under God’s Authority) (Mark 8:9; 1 Cor 11:3; Ph. 3:12-14,17)
- b) God’s Blessing! Pr 20:6-7 *“Most men will proclaim ... his own goodness: but a faithful (trustworthy) man who can find? The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.”*

## Conclusion:

These Mutual Roles of “Love and Respect” are clarified in Eph. 6:32,33

*“This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that She reverence her husband.”*

Creative (Respectful) Companionship and Loving Leadership can easily become contaminated by our selfish flesh! While our basic needs may be similar, They’re interpreted and processed through our individual “gender” (Blue vs Pink) perspectives.

Example: A wife is motivated to “connect” on a deep level with her husband. She tends to view anything that threatens that “connection” as a threat and is motivated to confront it. (Him) Her Motive For Confronting Him Is To Connect with Him! From his perspective, he views this confrontation as an attempt to Control him! He thinks this impending “battle” leaves him with two options: (Fight or Flight) Many choose what they believe to be the “honorable” option and simply withdraw from the conflict. Women perceive this as indifference to their feelings! That’s why God encourages us to *“dwell together according to Knowledge, giving honor...”* (1 Pt 3:7)

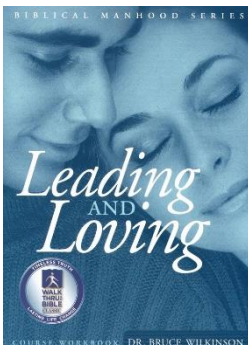
When we begin to focus on our needs, instead of our responsibilities; We inevitably enter “The Crazy Cycle”. (From the book “Love and Respect”)



## Application:

In order to “break” the crazy cycle we must intentionally choose to shift our focus away from getting our “rights” and towards Fulfilling our Responsibilities.

This will require our faith and God’s grace! That’s why Ps. 37:3-5 tells us to *“Trust in the LORD, and do good... (Trust and Obey) ... verify thou shalt be fed. (your needs will be met) Delight thyself in the LORD; (Focus on / prioritize His will) And He will give thee the desires of thine heart.”* *Commit thy way unto the LORD; (Do right no matter what) and He shall bring it to pass.”*



What’s the “it” that God’s trying to bring about in your life and/or marriage?  
Will you purpose to partner with God in allowing Him to accomplish “it” in your life and marriage?  
(See 1 Cor. 3:9; Phil. 2:13;4:13)

