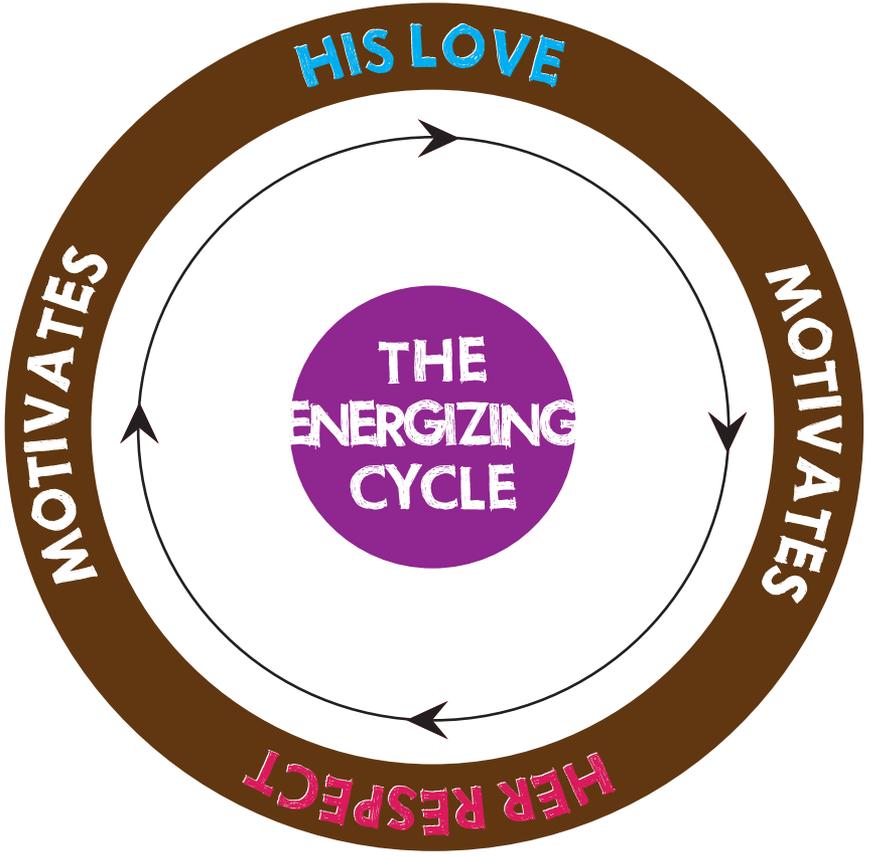


# marriage matters

**Love + Respect**  
**[part two]**

November 14, 2009 and February 27, 2010





## FOR HUBANDS: C O U P L E

How to show her love and keep off the crazy cycle.

“Couple” means two people connected together: the key to how women view relationships: wives want CONNECTIVITY.

### Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes.

## WHEN ON THE CRAZY CYCLE

We must learn to DECODE each other’s messages.

Remember **pink** & **blue**!

**LEARN TO TRUST YOUR INSTRUMENTS, no matter how you feel.**

When you act on the **C O U P L E** principles, you will “enjoy life with your wife, whom you love.” [Ecclesiastes 9:9]

**C LOSENESS** – Remember to move toward her and accept her need to talk and connect. This will reassure her of your love.

**O PENNESS** – Share your thoughts with her, and don’t resist her efforts to draw you out.

**U NDERSTANDING** – Be careful not to try to “fix” it or her every time she talks about one of her concerns. Remember whatever happens affects all of her, especially her emotions.

**P EACEMAKING** – Be willing to resolve issues, and avoid saying, “Let’s just drop it and move on”.

**L OYALTY** – Look for ways to tell her that you will be committed to her forever- that she’s the one love of your life, the only woman for you.

**E STEEM** – Let her know that you treasure her and put highest value on her as a person. Let her know that what she does and thinks are important to you and you couldn’t possibly do life without her.



## **FOR WIVES: CHAIRS**

How to show your husband respect and stay off the crazy cycle.

### **Proverbs 14:1**

A wise woman builds her house. But a foolish woman tears hers down.

### **2 Corinthians 5:7**

Walk by faith and not by sight...

**Do the “respect test”. Tell him you respect him and be ready with REASONS why. Don’t wait until he deserves it.**

**Respect motivates a man to move toward his wife.**

**C ONQUEST** – Stand behind him and let him know you support him in his work and endeavors.

**H IERARCHY** – Let him know you respect and appreciate his desire to protect and provide for you and your family. What have you said recently to communicate this?

**A UTHORITY** – Because God has made him responsible for you; allow him the authority to carry out that responsibility. Let him be the leader. How have you helped in that regard recently?

**I NSIGHT** – Trust his ability to analyze things and offer solutions and not just depend on your “intuition”?

**R ELATIONSHIP** – Spend shoulder-to-shoulder time with him. Let him know that you are his friend as well as his lover.

**S EXUALITY** – Honor his need for sexual release even when it means a sacrifice for you.



## THE REAL REASON TO LOVE & RESPECT

Not only does God command men to love their wives and women to respect their husbands, but that we must do this UNCONDITIONALLY.

When you love or respect unconditionally, you are following God and His will for you. Ultimately, your spouse and your marriage have nothing to do with it. You are simply demonstrating your OBEDIENCE and TRUST in the face of an unlovable wife or disresponsible husband.

Unconditional love and unconditional respect  
will be REWARDED.

HIS LOVE BLESSES REGARDLESS OF HER RESPECT;  
HER RESPECT BLESSES REGARDLESS OF HIS LOVE.

**Ephesians 6:7-8**

Serve wholeheartedly as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does.

**What matters to God matters even if it makes no sense to the world.**

A husband's unconditional love for his wife reveals his love for Christ.  
A wife's unconditional respect for her husband reveals her reverence for Christ.

No matter how depressing or irritating my spouse might be, my  
RESPONSE is my responsibility.

**PINK & BLUE CAN BECOME PURPLE**

The ultimate purpose behind showing love and respect to one another is to glorify God and obey what His Word teaches.

**You cannot do it alone.**

**John 15:5**

Apart from me you can do nothing.

**Prayer is the key to the becoming one  
and reflecting the image of God = PURPLE.**