

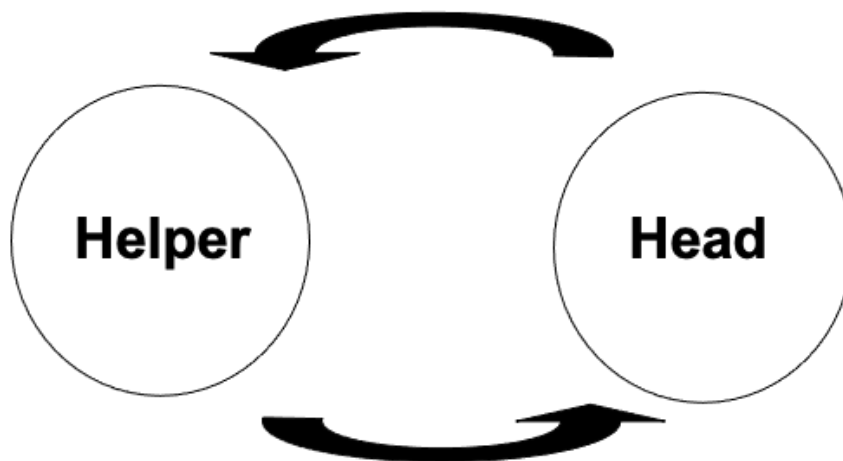
SESSION 17: FITTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

I. The Single Advantage

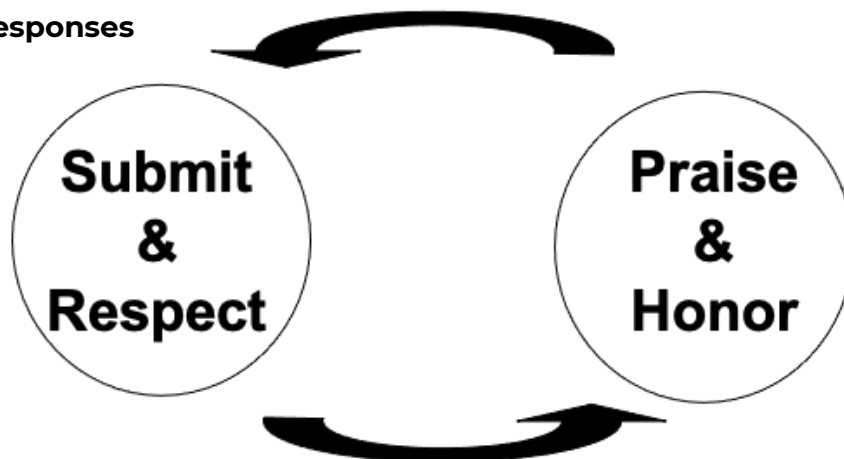
1 Corinthians 7

II. A Biblical View of Marriage

A. Core Roles



B. Core Responses



C. Core Concerns

Of the helper:

1. A wife needs companionship
2. A wife needs security
3. A wife needs significance
4. A wife needs emotional responsiveness

Of the head:

1. A husband needs companionship
2. A husband needs support
3. A husband needs admiration
4. A husband needs physical responsiveness

*We are greatly indebted to Robert Lewis of Fellowship Bible Church Little Rock, author of *Men's Fraternity*, *Quest for Authentic Manhood*, and *Raising a Modern-Day Knight*.

BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Discussion Questions:

1. From our Reflection Assignment last week: What is the difference between the cultural and the biblical views of “submission”? How can submission, in a biblical sense, be liberating for you?
2. What does it mean to keep a man’s leadership in view?
3. What is the difference between “righteous nagging” and the “ordinary” kind of nagging?
4. Which of the Core Concerns of a woman is most important to you? If that Concern is ignored or belittled, how do you feel?
5. Review the Core Concerns of a man. Do you have trouble sympathizing with any of them? If so, how can you be sure you are addressing that concern anyway?
6. If you are married, which of the Core Concerns of the Head do you think is most important to your husband? This week, ask him about this and find out how you can better meet that Concern.

For the singles: Name one attribute or quality that is a “must-have” for a potential husband. (Think: Are you dating anyone who doesn’t have this quality?)

Reflection Assignment:

Which of the “Core Concerns” of women do you most connect with? How do you feel when that concern is not met?

- *If you are single:* How does God meet your concern/needs? How can other people help?
- *If you are married:* Are there any of the “Core Concerns” of your husband you have trouble appreciating? How can you improve as a helper in this area?

Passage to Ponder this week: Ephesians 5:33

Week Seventeen Summary:

A beloved bestseller, *Love and Respect* by Emerson Eggerichs, revolutionized the relationship “self-help” industry (and many marriages) by asserting that men need respect the way women need love. It’s not a new idea. The Apostle Paul penned the idea 2000 years ago in his letter to the Ephesians, “. . . each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” The word “must” tells us this is not an optional or conditional suggestion. It is a command. Wives are commanded to respect their husbands just as urgently as husbands are commanded to love their wives. In the marriage relationship, each partner has a core role or identity—the husband is the Head and the wife is the Helper—and from these roles flow core responses, or ways of relating to each other. The Husband/Head responds to his wife with Praise and Honor for the way she helps and completes him. The Wife/Helper is to respond to her husband with Respect for and Submission to his authority and leadership. In marriage, the husband is given a mandate to lead, but as a servant-leader, so his wife is not belittled or oppressed, nor is she unloved. In this kind of marriage, a husband demonstrates his love and a wife demonstrates her respect by endeavoring to meet one another’s core concerns (or needs).

The Core Concerns of a Wife (these should be no surprise):

Companionship - A relationship where she can “know and be known.”

Security - Stability and clear direction for the family as well as financial security—not “wealth.”

Significance - Appreciation for her invaluable contribution to the family

Emotional Responsiveness - Understanding “how I feel” is more important than “fixing my problem.”

The Core Concerns of a Husband (these might be a surprise):

Companionship - For men, this tends to be more “side by side” than “face to face.” For women, companionship means *talking* together. For men it means *being* together.

Support - This is more than moral support (I know you can do it!) It means taking care of things behind the lines and behind the scenes so that he can be successful on the front lines.

Admiration - Men who know they are respected and admired by their wives rise to new heights of sacrificial, Christ-like leadership.

Physical Responsiveness - Just as women are hurt by emotional coldness from their husbands, men are wounded by sexual coldness from their wives.