

Love & Respect

Ephesians 5:33

Each of you must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Crazy Cycle:

When he does not express his love to her; she reacts to him without respect.

When she does not give her respect to him; he reacts to her without love.

The Crazy Cycle is self will. We treat our spouse with only our self interests at heart. We place our own desires above the needs of the other person. This is selfish.

Energizing Cycle:

His expression of love to her motivates her giving respect to him.

Her giving respect to him motivates his expression of love to her.

The Energizing Cycle is good will. In this cycle we assume that both of us are good willed people and are willing to give in order to get. We value our marriage (or relationship for those not married) enough to work out the problems in a mutual give and take. It is a good will effort to resolve problems. The Energizing Cycle works in an action reaction motion that is very dynamic and the powerful positive feedback will energize your marriage.

Rewarded Cycle:

He expresses his love to her regardless of her response of respect to him.

She gives respect to him regardless of his response of love to her.

The Rewarded Cycle is God's will. God's word reveals God's will for us, and as we obey his word he rewards us. We can extend the love or respect as required by God to our spouse and expect God to make the difference. Our reward is from God even if we never receive the love or respect we need. We cannot change our spouse. The job of the Holy Spirit is to convict of sin, and righteousness, and judgment. As we yield to the Holy Spirit and God's word, we allow the Holy Spirit to effectively work on our marriage.

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John 16:8-11

8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

1 Peter 3:9

Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

Matthew 5:46

If you love those who love you, what reward will you get?

1 Peter 3:1-7

Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. 3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. 4 Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. 5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, 6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.