

LOVE AND RESPECT: WHAT'S MISSING IN MARRIAGE

He's/She's Not Hearing Me

First Baptist Church - Venice, Florida

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The idea of UNCONDITIONAL LOVE is not a new or novel concept. However, the concept of UNCONDITIONAL RESPECT seems to be an oxymoron.



Everyone needs love and respect.

She needs UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.

He needs UNCONDITIONAL RESPECT.

Ephesians 5:31-33 (ESV) "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

FOUR HORSEMEN of the APOCALYPSE

1. CRITICISM
2. DEFENSIVENESS
3. CONTEMPT
4. STONEMAN

DEFEATING A CRITICIZING SPIRIT

- Criticize:
1. to consider the merits and demerits of and judge accordingly
 2. to find fault with; point out the faults of

I. What STANDARD do I use when being critical of my spouse?

Matthew 7:1-4 (HCSB) "Do not judge, so that you won't be judged. ²For with the judgment you use, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. ³Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye but don't notice the log in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and look, there's a log in your eye?"

I can demonstrate UNCONDITIONAL love to my wife by NOT BEING CRITICAL.

I can demonstrate UNCONDITIONAL love to my husband by NOT BEING CRITICAL.

II. Does my criticism have a root of UNFORGIVENESS or RESENTMENT?

James 1:19-20 (NLT) *Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. ²⁰Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.*

Hebrews 12:14-15 (NLT) *Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. ¹⁵Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.*

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT) *Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³²Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.*

III. Do I Feel JUSTIFIED in criticizing?

Philippians 2:5-9a (NLT) *You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. ⁹Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor...*

HOMEWORK

- 1. Make a list of 5 "Things" you APPRECIATE about your spouse and then TELL these to your spouse.**
- 2. Get in touch with your THOUGHTS. Stop thinking CRITICAL about your spouse. Instead FOCUS on the 5 APPRECIATION points.**
- 3. Go SEVEN DAYS IN A ROW without CRITICIZING.**
- 4. Ask your spouse to give you THREE REQUESTS that would make them feel loved and respected.**
 - a. Do not get angry when they make their requests.**
 - b. Do not say, "I will do that when you make some changes."**
 - c. You can say, "I will do my best to work on that."**