

1 Turn in your Bible to the Song of Solomon or the Song of Songs *Read Song of Solomon 3:1-5:1*
Three Goals for this 4-Week Series...

1. Increase oneness & intimacy in marriages -Decrease anger & frustration over romantic love
*Exchange 'baseball bats' for 'love letters' (romance)
2. Give instruction about romantic love -Avoid perversion (misuse) & prudishness (ignorance)
*Exchange 'Victoria's secret' for your 'spouse's secret'
3. Incline your heart's passion towards Jesus -Weaken wayward desires by seeing Jesus' love for you
*Exchange the 'mouse' (Harlem Quinn) for the WORD

SOS is about the progress of romantic love ... God's picture of His best for love-making in a fallen world.

1. Love is Cultivated: *Courting Love 1:1-2:17 How to approach (get) married?*
***Courting:** is intentional friendship to determine if marriage is God's plan; it involves communication, romance (conversation NOT action), boundaries & accountability, PRAYER.
2. Love is Consummated: *Love-Making 3:1-5:1 How to have purity not prudishness & perversion?*
***Love-making** (sexual intimacy) is God's good gift to a husband & a wife (in marriage) for...
1) Knowing God's love, 2) Communion, 3) Sanctification, 4) Mutual pleasure, 5) Child-bearing sometimes.

Wedding Night... Their marriage was consummated by their love-making.

4:1-16 Solomon fully awakened his wife's love with romantic speaking: 'I delight in you & I desire you!'

4:16b Shulammitte responds to her husband's love by eagerly & joyfully inviting him to express his love for her.

5:1a Solomon expresses his delight in their love-making.

5:1b God expresses His delight in their love-making.

1. God gives His blessing and approval to what they are doing.
2. God tells them to indulge in the goodness and wonder of His idea of sexual intimacy & love-making.
3. God wants us to be overwhelmed & carried away with love, both in giving & receiving from our spouse.

What happens then? Do they just 'live happily ever after'? What happens? LIFE...living in a fallen world happens.

Chapters 5-6 Romantic Love is threatened...Romantic Love is to be restored...How to stay on the same team!

Most problems in a marriage don't begin in the bedroom, but they eventually manifest themselves in the bedroom.

Marriage issues: finances, health, failed expectations, children, communication, unwillingness to admit failure & seek forgiveness, unforgiveness, selfishness, pride, stubbornness, spiritual coolness, laziness, worldliness, addictions

In Feb. 1999, the *National Health and Social Life Survey* completed a comprehensive study of American sex lives:

1. Sexually active singles have the most sexual problems and get the least pleasure out of sex.
2. Men with the most 'liberal attitudes about sex' are 75% more likely to fail to satisfy their partners.
3. Married couples by far reported the happiest satisfaction with their sex lives.
4. The most sexually satisfied demographic group of them is that of married couples between the ages: 50-59!

But love-making problems do happen. Things are not always great in the bedroom--sometimes because of other issues but sometimes because of failure in the bedroom. So what should couples do when that happens?

#1 5:2-5 Romantic Love Threatened: Shulammitte Fails to Respond to Solomon's Initiation

- 2 *I slept, but my heart was awake. A sound! My beloved is knocking. "Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one, for my head is wet with dew, my locks with the drops of the night."*
- 3 *I had put off my garment; how could I put it on? I had bathed my feet; how could I soil them?*
- 4 *My beloved put his hand to the latch, and my heart was thrilled within me.*
- 5 *I arose to open to my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with liquid myrrh, on the handles of the bolt.*

2: Vs. 2 speaks of one of those moments when a husband wants to be intimate with his wife at a bad time.

It says Shulammitte was asleep in her bed in her bedroom when she is awakened by a knocking on her door.

We are told that she recognizes Solomon's voice speaking to her outside her bedroom door.

In the Ancient Near East, it was customary for a husband and wife to occupy separate bedrooms.

It was also common for a king to work long days and sometimes into the night.

This probably was the case here. Solomon has been working late & he comes home to be with his wife.

***Every woman is asking: 'WHY is Solomon knocking on her door when he knows she probably is asleep???'**

***Every man knows the answer:** Solomon has come home & is tired...but NOT too tired. He is interested & initiates.

He probably wanted both emotional & physical support & intimacy with his wife after a long day at work.

*Studies show that for most men the secret of a happy marriage is emotional support AND an active sex life.

*Studies show that for most women happiness comes from being loved by a caring, kind & sensitive husband.

Solomon's approach is gentle & sensitive--asks, doesn't demand. He knows it is late & maybe she is asleep.

MY sister...MY love...MY dove...MY perfect one... These are words of relationship, affection and desire!

3: Vs. 3 tells us what the Shulammitte says to herself in response to Solomon's request to open the door.

He answer to his request: NOT NOW! Love-making right now is more trouble than it is worth!

***Let's evaluate what is going on: a husband initiates sexual intimacy (bad timing) & a wife says not now.**

Shulammitte: 1) **Inconvenient:** changed/bathed=a lot of work; 2) **Indifferent:** passions are not aroused—Why?

a. **Not thinking that way:** Solomon neglected her? b. **Upset/Disappointed:** Solomon was late, (didn't call)

'My comfort is more important than your needs/desires. I waited; it's late. So sad. Too bad. You messed up.'

Wife's Struggles: **In-convenient:** too much work **In-different:** not important (aroused) or resentment (fail)

Solomon: 'Yes I am late. I'm sorry but there are demands I sometimes must attend to. But I still love & want you.

Husband's Struggles: **In-sensitive:** late, late often??? **In-romantic:** not arousing: failing to love=honor

4: Vs. 4 says Solomon touched the latch possibly to signal to her to please open the door: 'I miss you & want you.'

This aroused her feelings towards him. Inconvenience & indifference melt away as her heart warms to him.

5: Vs. 5 says she is moved to action...she gets up to go to her beloved to open the door and welcome him in.

When she gets there, she finds evidence of his presence: liquid myrrh on the door handle...too little...too late!

***One of the biggest struggles—battle grounds in marriage is over the frequency of love-making.**

Often husbands desire love-making more than their wife. Wives think: it seems he wants sex 24/7!

A counselor once encouraged a wife whose husband was not satisfied with the frequency of their love-making to go home and hunt her husband for one week. She was to track him down as often as possible and engage in love-making and after a week call the counselor back. Two days later, the counselor received a call from the wife who said: 'your plan worked...I found my husband waving a white handkerchief.'

She then told the counselor how foolish they both felt because they realized after 15 yr. of marriage, they found out that their sexual desires, though not identical were definitely compatible.

Husband felt he had to fish all the time, because it seemed his wife was never interested...so he kept trying.

Wife felt like she had to say NO all the time because if she said yes, it seemed they would have sex every day.

***Solution:** talk about your desires & expectations & make mutual compromises--small movements to each other:

***Martin Luther** said generally a good plan for married couples is to plan on love-making 2 times a week.

#2 5:6-8 Romantic Love 'Broken': Shulammitte Searches for Solomon

6 *I opened to my beloved, but my beloved had turned and gone. My soul failed me when he spoke.*

I sought him, but found him not; I called him, but he gave no answer.

7 *The watchmen found me as they went about in the city; they beat me, they bruised me, they took away my veil, those watchmen of the walls.*

8 *I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my beloved, that you tell him I am sick with love.*

Vs. 6-8 could either be a dream or a description of actual actions Shulammitte takes. I think it was real.

6: Vs. 6 reveals two consequences of their failure to connect: Solomon leaves & Solomon doesn't answer.

Perhaps Solomon thinks her taking so long to come is because she wasn't coming or had fallen back to sleep.

Perhaps Solomon realizes he was too late to be asking so he quietly leaves hoping not to disturb her anymore.

Perhaps Solomon is angry at her delay, loses patience, and leaves to calm down somewhere.

Two common responses from men when sexual conflicts occur: leave & stop talking. Both can be wrong!

Husbands: if you need time to cool down—fine but tell your wife what you are doing & when you'll be back.

***Solomon didn't get angry**—anger tempts your wife to think that you don't love her but are merely using her.

7: Vs. 7 says things got worse-as she searched for Solomon some watchmen found her, beat & bruised her.

She was covered with a shawl, so perhaps they didn't recognize her & thought she was a prowler or a spy.

They struck, injured & took her shawl. At some point they recognize she is Solomon's wife---& let her go.

***Marriage conflicts are costly, hurtful but unavoidable in a fallen world: God includes a 'fight' in His manual.**

Husbands: If you leave & clam up: you put your wife in a bad spot. If you stay and fight with anger—also bad!

Wives: If you fail to respond to your husband's desire, don't just ignore it—it won't go away! Deal with it!

8: Vs. 8 says she speaks to some women that if they find him to tell him that she loves him!

Implied in this statement is two questions that they will ask her: Where is he? What is he like?

***Brokenness: Inconvenience & indifference! Marriage takes WORK/EFFORT & FOCUS/PRIORITY/ACTION**

Situation: Husband initiated...wife rejected: husband & wife 'hurting'...separate, divided, at odds

Opposite: Wife initiates (4 'T's') not sexual intimacy, husband rejects (neglects): both hurt...separate, divide

In either case—brokenness/separateness is NOT good nor can it last for long without lasting consequences.

#3 5:9-6:3 Romantic Love Reminded: Shulammite's Indifference is Replaced with Gratitude

9 **OTHERS:** 1. *What is your beloved more than another beloved, O most beautiful among women?*

1. *What is your beloved more than another beloved, that you thus adjure us?*

10 **SHE:** *My beloved is radiant and ruddy, distinguished among ten thousand.*

11 1 *His head* is the finest gold;

2 *his locks* are wavy, black as a raven.

12 3 *His eyes* are like doves beside streams of water, bathed in milk, sitting beside a full pool.

13 4 *His cheeks* are like beds of spices, mounds of sweet-smelling herbs.

5 *His lips* are lilies, dripping liquid myrrh.

14 6 *His arms* are rods of gold, set with jewels.

7 *His body (abdomen)* is polished ivory, bedecked with sapphires.

15 8 *His legs* are alabaster columns, set on bases of gold.

9 *His appearance* is like Lebanon, choice as the cedars.

16 10 *His mouth* is most sweet, and he is altogether desirable.

This is my beloved and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

9: Vs. 9 & 6:1 these women ask Shulammite two important questions: **What is your man like? Where is he?**
5:9 What is he like--Why are you so lovesick? 6:1 Where is he--Can you go to him?

10: Vs. 10 she begins to tell them what Solomon is like, listing both character qualities and physical features.
She begins by noting she is enraptured by his dazzling looks & ruddy complexion (David--1 Sam. 16:12).
She says he is outstanding even if he was to be compared with ten thousand other men. **He is the BEST!**

Then just as Solomon described her beauty from her head downward...she speaks of his attractiveness to her.

11: 1 She loves his head=**finest gold**=value, importance Good 'thinker'! Wise! Common sense!

2 She loves his locks=**wavy, black raven**=black hair,

12: 3 She loves his eyes=**doves**=tender, peace, gentleness, calmness, brightness, alertness...attractive!

13: 4 She loves his cheeks=**beds of spices/herbs**=sweet scented, pleasant, desirable smell

5 She loves his lips=**lilies, dripping with myrrh**=desirable,

14: 6 She adores his arms=**rods of gold w/jewels**=strong, valuable,

7 She loves his abdomen=**polished ivory w/sapphires**=shaped, sculpted, strong, inviting

15: 8 She loves his legs=**alabaster columns on bases of gold**=

9 She loves his appearance=**like Lebanon/cedars**= cedar tree--important for building.

16: 10 She loves his mouth=**sweet/desirable**=great kisser AND wise/kind (not crude) in the words he speaks

By the time she is done describing Solomon to these women, she senses her own heart warming up to him.

Shulammite by speaking well of her husband, was renewed to be restored to him & her sexual desire for him.

1 **Women:** 2. *Where has your beloved gone, O most beautiful among women?*

2. *Where has your beloved turned, that we may seek him with you?*

2 **SHE:** *My beloved has gone down to his garden to the beds of spices, to graze in the gardens and to gather lilies.*

3 *I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine; he grazes among the lilies.*

1: **In Vs. 1 these wise women ask their second important question: Where has Solomon gone? Where is he?**

They ask this questions, not so they might help her find him, but a gentle encouragement for her to go to him.

This is HUGE: Oh, that every wife had a woman or women in her life to encourage these things: What? Where?

***Wife:** 1) Surround yourself with women like this-who encourage you to think/speak positively of your man.

2) When you feel your husband is an inconvenience or you are indifferent to him...think on his + traits.

3) Realize he is NOT perfect, & will never be perfect... LOVE is a CHOICE to see with Jesus' eyes!

*Gather around you & commit to be a voice that encourages: respect for your husband & responsiveness to him.

2: **In vs. 2 Shulammite speaks of Solomon having entered his garden...2 possibilities:**

1. Figurative garden=they are engaged in love-making 2. Literal garden that they shared together=available!

Contextually: #2 is best: Solomon has gone to a place where he can be found--gone to 'their' garden.

This is why the women's question in verse 1 is so powerful--where is your man? If you know--go to him!

KEY: Solomon allowed himself to be found by his wife--didn't leave too far & didn't harden his heart against her.

3: **In vs. 3, she affirms they belong to each other...though separated, she still knows they belong to each other.**

There is no use of the word 'divorce', no running to 'mom', no playing hide & seek, no stewing in silence

She expresses her hope that his attitude will be open & reasonable when she says 'he grazes among the lilies.'

***Who Initiates: Who starts the restoration process?** Who should move towards the other to make things right?

*Whoever fails to respond to an invitation or initiation should try to make things right: She goes to him!

***BUT** the person who was 'spurned' can also humbly seek restoration: Solomon could have gone to her!

***What is Goal:** not to win an argument but to restore oneness, intimacy, feelings of being on the same team!

#4 6:1-13 Romantic Love Restored: Solomon with understanding & forgiveness not pride or anger loves her

4 **HE:** *You are beautiful as Tirzah, my love, lovely as Jerusalem, awesome as an army with banners.*
5 *Turn away your eyes from me, for they overwhelm me —*
Your hair is like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead.
6 *Your teeth are like a flock of ewes that have come up from the washing; all of them bear twins;*
not one among them has lost its young.
7 *Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil.*
8 **There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, and virgins without number.**
9 *My dove, my perfect one, is the only one, the only one of her mother, pure to her who bore her.*
The young women saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines also, and they praised her.
10 *"Who is this who looks down like the dawn, beautiful as the moon, bright as the sun,*
awesome as an army with banners?"
11 **SHE:** *I went down to the nut orchard to look at the blossoms of the valley, to see whether the vines had budded,*
whether the pomegranates were in bloom.
12 *Before I was aware, my desire set me among the chariots of my kinsman, a prince.*
13a **Women:** *Return, return, O Shulammitte, return, return, that we may look upon you.*
13b **HE:** *Why should you look upon the Shulammitte, as upon a dance before two armies?*

4: In Vs. 4 we see she went to their garden to talk with Solomon...But before she speaks, he speaks love to her. **YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL TO ME!** No spiteful accusation! No injured pride! Just kind words of commitment.

YOU are as beautiful as two of the most beautiful cities in Palestine: Tirzah & Jerusalem

YOU are as awesome as an army with its glorious banners. Doesn't mean she is coming to fight him!

Rather---YOU unnerve me & sweep me off my feet, the way a great army does, my love!

5: In Vs. 5 he asks her to turn away her eyes from looking at him—they overwhelm & confuse him.

6-7 In Vs. 6-7 Solomon compliments her hair, teeth & cheeks--continuing to emphasize her beauty to him.

Observation: His list is shorter this time than it was on their first night ... Leaves out the more sensual features...

Solomon is committed to his wife more than just for sexual intimacy but for who she is!

Physical attraction is healthy, normal, and good when done in a Biblical fashion.

Balance: Both inner person & outer person are important: God made us both in His image & with bodies.

8-10 In Vs. 8-10, Solomon notes that Shulammitte is at the top—which everyone else agrees with.

Awkward: 'You are my best wife—first out of 140! All my other wives think you are the best!'

9: In Vs. 9, Solomon notes the Shulammitte was the only daughter of her mother. I wish I was your only wife!

10: In Vs. 10 he repeats what his other wives say about her: beautiful as moon, pure as sun, awesome as army.

11: In Vs. 11, Shulammitte says she went down to their garden—nut orchard—to see if their love was OK.

12: In Vs. 12, she reveals what her response was to Solomon's words—we are OK!

The second part of vs. 12 could mean Solomon swept her up in his chariot.

13: Women cry out, wanting to see her—to which Solomon says, Sorry not now—something else in his mind.

Restoring A Broken Marriage...

Couples who develop harmony in their marriage are not those who are identical in thinking, behavior and attitudes—they are not carbon copies of each other. They are the couples who have learned to take their differences through the process of acceptance, understanding and eventually, complementation. Differing from another person is very natural and normal and adds an edge of excitement and effectiveness to a relationship.

Levels of conflict and brokenness in a marriage...

1. Difference of opinion	"Spat"	Communication
2. Heated debate or argument	"Quarrel"	Confrontation
3. Intense anger expressed	"Fight"	Rejection
4. Hostility (even hatred) expressed	"War"	Separation

In a Christian marriage, conflict—with its demand for confession, forgiveness & reconciliation—is a means God teaches humility. Conflict usually indicates that some personal value or need is not met. Conflicts usually emerge as a symptom. This means just resolving the conflict may not take care of the greater and deeper issue or need.

Ways to Deal with Conflict...

1. **Withdraw.** If you see conflict as a hopeless inevitability and one which you can do little to control, then you may not even bother trying. You may withdraw physically by removing yourselves from the room or environment, or you may withdraw by not speaking, ignoring or insulating yourself so much that what is said or suggested has no penetrating power. There are many who use the backing-off approach to protect themselves.

2. **Winning at all costs.** If you are threatened or if you feel strongly that you must look after your own interests, then this method may be your choice. If you have a position of authority and it become threatened, winning is counterattack. No matter what the cost, winning is the goal. There are many different tactics to winning. Since married couples are well aware of each other's areas of vulnerability and hurt, they often use these areas to coerce the other person in giving in to their own demands. "Winners" may attack self-esteem or pride in order to win. They may store up grudges and use them at the appropriate time to take care of a conflict.
3. **Yielding.** We often see yield signs on the highway; they are place there for our own protection. If we yield in a conflict, we also protect ourselves. We do not want to risk a confrontation so we give in to get along with our partner. We all use this approach from time to time, but is yielding a regular pattern for you? Consistent yielding may create feelings of martyrdom or eventually guilt in your partner. Some people even sense a need to "lose" in a marital conflict. This approach is a face-saving way of doing that. By yielding, you give the appearance that you are in control and are the one behaving in the "most Christian" way. We learn to suppress or repress our anger and pile it up instead of doing what Nehemiah did in Nehemiah 5:6-7, where he appropriately expressed his anger and took action.
4. **Compromising or giving a little to get a little.** There is a place for this method of dealing with conflict. It is good to learn to give concessions as well as to receive them. Everyone needs to learn to back off on some of their ideas or demands to help the other person. But there is still a better way.
5. **Open and direct communication.** A Christian response to disagreements includes a willingness to be patient in working out a solution. This willingness to exchange information, feelings and ideas with one another should lead to mutual understanding. Our first idea about a problem will not always be the same as our later understanding of it. As new ideas are expressed and the discussion develops, the issues may change.

To learn how to resolve conflict, do the following...

- 1) Select an appropriate time to talk.
- 2) Speak directly, calmly and personally to the other person.
- 3) Be honest in your statements and questions—don't exaggerate.
- 4) Make statements out of your questions.
- 5) Define the problem and define the areas of agreement and disagreement in the conflict.
- 6) Identify your own contribution to the conflict.
- 7) Focus on your desired expectations or positive changes rather than on seeking to "win the war."
- 8) Share your request in a statement of preference rather than a statement of necessity.
- 9) Make "I" statements rather than "you" statements and share your present feelings rather than past feelings.
- 10) State what behaviors on YOUR part would help resolve the conflict.

WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT...

1. **Forgiveness is not forgetting.** The memories of things people have done to hurt you will be with you all your life. There are two different ways of remembering past events. One is to recall the offense in such a way that it continues to affect you and your relationship. It continues to eat away and bother you so that the hurt remains. Another way of remembering, simply says, 'Yes, that happened. I know it did but it no longer affects me.' The fact remains (and even the consequences may remain), but it no longer entangles you in its tentacles of control.
2. **Forgiveness is not pretending.** You cannot ignore the fact an event occurred. What has been done is done.
3. **Forgiveness is not a feeling.** It is a clear and logical action on your part. It is not a soothing, comforting, overwhelming emotional response that erases the fact from your memory.
4. **Forgiveness is not bringing up the past.** It is easy to bring up past offenses and hurts. There are some who have a trading stamp book of unlimited pages of hurts that they are collecting to be used at a future date. To bring up the past is destructive because: there is nothing you can do to change it; it takes you away from giving your energy to the present and future; it makes you responsible at this point for jeopardizing the marriage; even if you were severely offended, by dwelling on the offense you place a continuing burden on yourself and your marriage; it does little to elevate you in the eyes of others; and it denies your spouse the opportunity to change for the better.
5. **Forgiveness is not demanding change before you forgive.** If you demand a change or demand a proof of it first, you expose your own faithlessness and unwillingness to believe/love your spouse.

WHAT FORGIVENESS IS...

1. **Forgiveness is rare because it is so hard.** It will cost you love and pride to truly forgive your spouse. To forgive means giving up defending yourself. It means not allowing the other person to pay. It repudiates revenge and the desire to get even. It does not demand its rights. It involves suffering.

2. **Forgiveness is self-giving.** It gives love to the person who expects hatred. It gives freedom where the person deserves punishment. It gives understanding when the person anticipates anger and revenge.
3. **Forgiveness is costly and substitutional.** All forgiveness means that one who is hurt must pay for the hurt themselves and not demand payment from the one who hurt them. Forgiveness takes place when love accepts—deliberately—the hurts and abrasions of life and drops all charges against the other person. Forgiveness is accepting the other when both of you know he and she has done something quite unacceptable. Forgiveness is smiling silent love to your spouse when the justification for keeping an insult or injury alive is on the tip of your tongue, yet you swallow them. Not because you have to, to keep peace, but because you want to, to make peace. Forgiveness is not acceptance given “on condition” that the other become acceptable. Forgiveness is given freely.

God ‘Hard-wired’ Husbands To Desire...

1. **Cheering** (respect & admiration) **5:2; 5:10-16, 6:2**

AIR: Wives, when you respect & admire your husband you put air in his sail.

Most if not all good-hearted men think that if my wife doesn't admire & respect me...what else matters?
 When a wife often nags, gripes, complains most men loose heart: passive/aggressive. **Pr. 9:13;19:13;21:9**
Thank him for loving, providing, protecting and when talking, don't press your point when he has heard.
A respectful wife can make a so-so man great & disrespectful wife can make a great man so-so!

2. **Completion** (love-making) **5:1; 5:2; 6:13f**

AIR: Wives, your husband needs sexual intimacy like you need air to breathe.

A man struggles to believe his wife admires & respects him if she doesn't sexually desire him.
Try not to say 'NO', but if you must say "NO", gently tell him why and then when.
Almost always, a sexually responsive wife receives the fruit of her love with kindness, helpfulness & agape.

God ‘Hard-wired’ Wives To Desire...

1. **Touch--Affection & Romance**

Key: Men, don't view romance only as the key to get you into a door...there are many more doors to come...
 -Romance is the key that gets a woman to marry, but once married we think we don't need the key anymore.
 -Emotional touching—affection—is the oil that smoothes out the rough spots in your relationship.

2. **Talk--Intimate Conversation**

Love-making: Men, talking for your wife is like love-making for you: pleasurable in & of itself.

(not just to possibly have children).

-Talking opens a women's heart—helps her respect and admire you. Talking is honoring—feel loved.

3. **Team--Spiritual leader**

Head-Neck: Men your wife looks to you to step up & lovingly lead her...as the neck looks to the head.

-Women want to be led by a loving, caring, considerate, kind, thoughtful, serving, sacrificial leader/husband.

-For many women, when a husband is the quarterback of their team, she feels honored & important.

Remember, she is the NECK and the neck has a lot of influence over the HEAD!

Financial support AND Family support are both important though can be in conflict with each other!

4. **Tenderness--Affirmation & Appreciation**

Flowers: Men, your wife is like a field of flowers not a parking lot. Be sensitive! Affirm! Show appreciation!

-Women want to be affirmed & appreciated—noticed, recognized & praised by their husband.

His opinion counts—something that must be daily given...something that cannot be 'stored up.'

The opposite side of this is the power of criticism is DEADLY...soul crushing!