

Conflict With Your Mate "Song of Songs 5:2-16, 6:1-13"

The Problem Reacting

The Problem with Reacting is that it tends to be either **hot** or **cold**.

A hot reaction is to return in like manner, "*when they react, I'll react*". It is when the two of you collide
and
no one can win
; and the
children can't wait
to
turn 18
and
move out of the house
.

Ultimately,
one mate will subdue the other
and the
subdued mate
will
harbor bitterness
.

Then
10 years
into the marriage
, when the

aggressive mate comes home,
their
spouse is gone

.

Reacting hot
results in one mate
finding delight
in
hurting the other

.

In a cold reaction you don't have the fights. You just turn on the ice for 10 days. Have you
been raised
in a house
with
passive aggression (I had as a child)
, where
everyone walks
around for
10 days on egg shells
because
mom and dad
aren't speaking
?

And that's
just as bad
,
if not worse
than a hot reaction.

How do you know when you hurt your mate? By their non-verbal communication

During our family vacation one year, we could not afford to chip in our per person portion, for staying in the luxurious oceanfront home with my wife's family members.

It hurt her not to room with family and to have to live in a lesser quality home 12 miles away

Yet, she never complained.

But her silence during the 12-mile ride back to the condo each night

spoke more to my heart than any number of words she could have uttered

After the 4th night I vowed to myself never to subject her to that again

To this moment, she has yet to complain

, because
her demeanor had spoken
more effectively

.

Single men and women.... Are you that kind of person? Do you solve problems like Solomon had?

Or, are going to
be hard to live with
?

Here's some heads-up advice:

An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, and disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel - Proverbs 18:19.

Husbands,
when you hurt your wife
, you
send shrapnel
through
her soul
; because
women experience emotions
more intensely and deeply
than men

.

Therefore, it
will take her a while
to
get over
the
pain

.

Now, for the second thing you do when you have a conflict with your wife.

Respond to God

Like Solomon did. Don't react to her, but rather ***respond to God***. 20 years ago my question to Solomon [when his wife denied him sex] would have been , "She did you wrong man, so why are you putting perfume on her door handles?"

I think Solomon's answer would have been something like this:
"Because my standard of conduct is not my wife's standard , it's Gods standard.

*And
God says
to love my wife.*

*And that's what I'm going to do,
no matter
what she does."*
Doesn't this quality remind you of Jesus while being humiliated upon the cross ?

While suffering he

uttered no threats
, rather
He trusted himself to God
who
judges all things
.

And husbands,
aren't we to be like Jesus
in
dealing with our wives
(Ephesians 5),
cultivating and prompting her
to
respond in love
?

Husbands,
we are to be
a
person with poise
.

When stressed
(and our wives will stress us like the church stresses Jesus), men it is
to our advantage
to
maintain our composure
while listening
to
God's higher voice
.

In
character traits
it is called
magnanimity
- where you are
great of spirit
.

Its
negative counterpart
is a
spirit of meanness
.

To be "mean" is to have the average response of a pagan man

.

That was the original meaning of the word "mean"; as in an average

.

It's like saying, "You are acting average!" Fellas, this is so important in your marriage

.

Men and Women are not as equally as our cultural *hype* suggests

.

Example of Difference in Men and Women

Fellas think about it, when brothers first meet we are cordial. But after we get to know each other closer, how do we grow y insulting one another ? B

.
When
two close friends
approach
each other, it goes
something
like this, "Now there
goes the neighborhood!
" or "You ole scoundrel, what
hole
have you been hiding in? Or, who left the door open?"

And when we really get close, what do we do?
We hit each other

.

Sisters, on the other hand, don't play that!

When was the
last time you saw
one woman greet
each
other sister
in the parking lot saying, "Hey,
heifer
what rock did you crawl out from
under
!"

Never, at least without some hateration!

God made us male, and God made them female. When a man gets hurt, he gets angry, but when you hurt your wife, it lingers.

.

Peter put it like this:
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 - 1 Peter 3:7

So fellas, we ought not react to our wife. She is a gentle creature. When you hurt her deeply, do everything to correct it

.

You
kneel
... you
give money
..... You
stop everything
and
go to her
and
ask for forgiveness

.

You respond to God

,
not
to the
crowd noise of your soul

.

It's
called spirituality
..... It's called
maturity
..... It's called
temperance
..... It's called
self-control

-

Proverbs 12:18 - Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

What's the third thing about marital conflict we should know?

Don't Put Your "Religion" Down

Go down to vs 6 - I opened for my lover, but my lover had left; he was gone. My heart sank at his departure. |

looked for him but did not find him.

I called him but he did not answer.

Now turn
back one page
to chapter
3:2-4a.

When
she was in fellowship with God
, things
tended to flow her way
and she
found her husband
and the
watchmen helped her
.

But
over here
in
chapter 5
, when
she "
put her religion down
" by acting selfishly
and
barred her husband
from her room because of
her needs

,
things
didn't quiet flow her way, as before

.
Vs 7 - The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city.

They beat me, they bruised me; they took away my cloak, those watchmen of the walls!

She says "when to
watchmen found me
they
beat
and
bruised me
"

*(We are
talking about Solomon's
wife here!)*

It's very likely the watchmen weren't able to identify who this was lurking around the walls of
Jerusalem at
night wearing a cloak

.
They
wouldn't have known
whether it was a
man or woman
; which explains why they took away the cloak.

Let it
suffice to say
that things weren't flowing in this sister's favor.

So brothers and sisters, don't ever put your religion down!

Stay tuned for the next principle about dealing with marital conflict?