

God's Design for Marriage

Week 7



How Does a Couple Fulfill God's Role for Each of Them?



Spirit-to-Spirit / Heart-to-Heart

- Important for communication
- Important for true problem resolution
- Good relationship – easier to work through thoughts and feelings
- Working through thoughts and feelings makes for a good relationship

When I use this term (spirit), I do not mean anything that is mystical or weird.

This is a term that the Scriptures use. We do not use them often in everyday speech, and so sometimes they can be awkward to use.

“One thing to get straight right from the start is that when the Bible speaks of the heart, whether Old Testament or New, it is not speaking of our emotional life only but of the central animating center of all we do. It is what gets us out of bed in the morning and what we daydream about as we drift off to sleep. It is our motivation headquarters. The heart, in Biblical terms, is not part of who we are but the center of who we are. Our heart is what defines and directs us.”

-- Dane Ortlund, “Gentle and Lowly” (2020)

Heart/Spirit

- It is the core of who we are and the basis for meaningful relationships.
- The better you know someone, the more familiar you are with their heart, their way.
- How do you get to know someone on a heart level?

The Quaker Meeting

- NO LAUGHING
- NO TALKING
- NO CHEWING GUM



The Modified Quaker Meeting

- NO LAUGHING
 - NO TALKING
 - NO CHEWING GUM
 - 30 Seconds
 - Married/engaged couples only
 - Lock gaze into eyes
- 
- Two interlocking gold wedding rings are positioned in the background of the slide. The rings are shiny and have a textured band. They are arranged in a way that they appear to be intertwined, with one ring in front of the other.

Common Reactions to Prolonged Eye Contact

Awkward	Uncomfortable	Close (to the other person)	Connected
Fear	Anxious	Good	Safe
Self-Conscious	Vulnerable	Excited	Glad
Exposed	Nervous	Together	Secure
Shame	Insecure	Protected	Cared for

Why do you think this happens?

Why People Are Uneasy

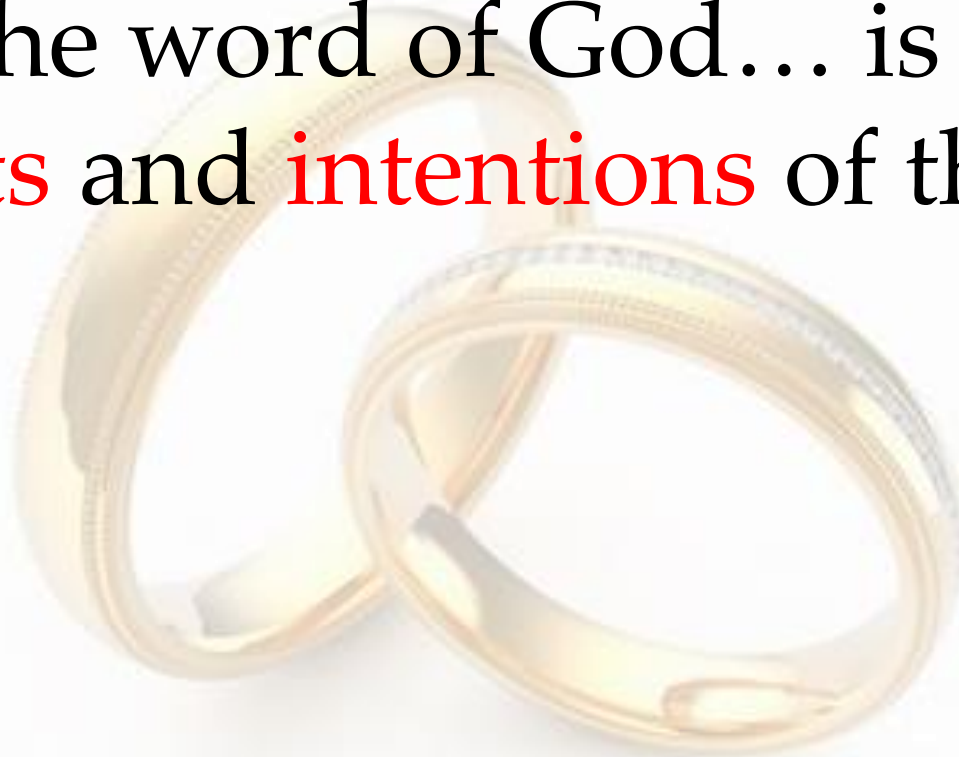
- Mt. 6:22-23 The **eye** is the lamp of the body;
- Prov. 20:27 The **spirit** of man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the innermost parts of his being.
- The eye reveals the spirit, which in turn shows what's going on inside.

What Does God Say About the Spirit/Heart?

- Mt 15:10, 15-19 What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the **heart**, and defiles a person.
- Jer 17:9 The heart is **deceitful** and desperately **sick**; who can understand it?
 - 17:10 The **Lord** searches the heart, tests the mind...

What Does God Say About the Spirit/Heart?

- Heb 4:12 The word of God... is able to judge the **thoughts** and **intentions** of the heart.



Spirit/Heart Intimacy

- ...is what God wants us to enjoy with Him
- Spirit/heart intimacy between two people requires _____ to happen first.
- Trust

Spiritual Intimacy Between People is **Scary**

- How will you handle my thoughts and feelings?
- How will you handle things in my heart that you don't like?
- Will you value and care, or minimize, judge, condemn, belittle or ignore what's in my heart?

Spiritual Intimacy is **Unilateral**

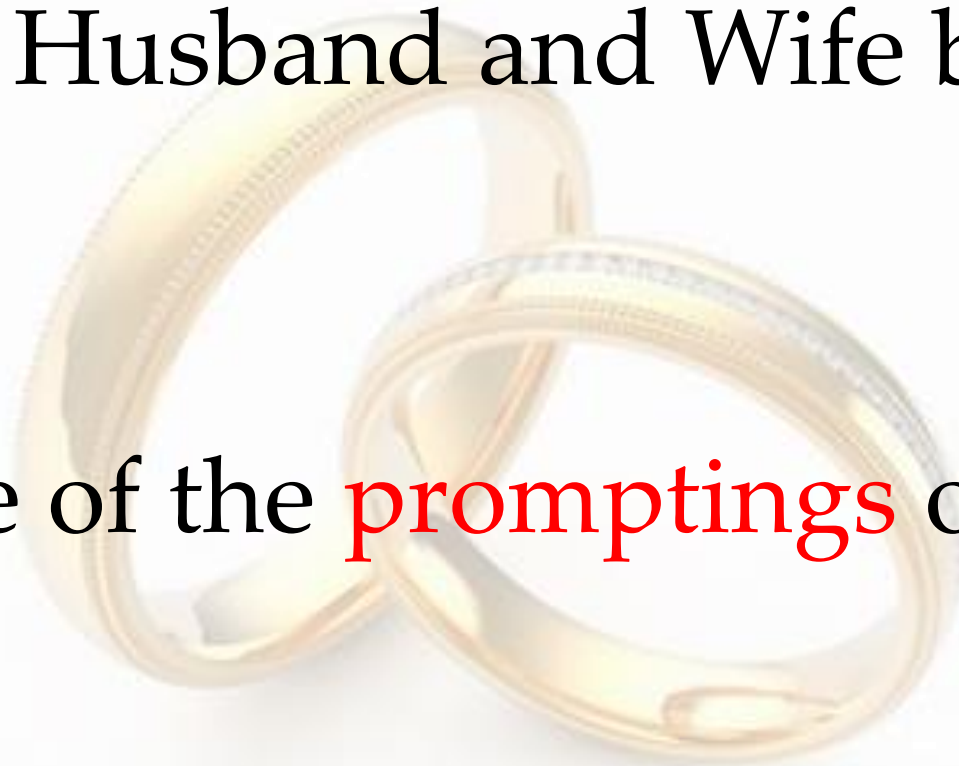
- Contrary to our contractual way of thinking
- **Contractual** intimacy makes the willingness of one person to act dependent on the other person's fulfilling their obligation.
- A-Frame hug

A Larger Purpose

- As a husband is more alert to his wife's spirit/heart, in obedience to Christ, he will become more aware of what is happening in his own spirit/heart.
- Understanding his own heart will help a husband be more **understanding** and **empathetic** to his wife

A Larger Purpose

- As a result, Husband and Wife become more Christlike
- More aware of the promptings of the Holy Spirit



What the Bible Says about the Human Spirit

- 1 Cor 2:10-11 Only the **spirit** of man knows his own thoughts...
 - We have received the Spirit who is from God, that we might **know** the things freely given to us by God.
- Rom 8:15-16 The Spirit **bears witness** to our spirit that we are His children
- Ezek 36:26 New heart, new spirit, I will put my Spirit within you.

3 Indicators of the Human Heart/Spirit

1. The Eyes

- Prov 15:13
- Prov 15:30

2. The Countenance

- Gen 4:5
- Ps 10:4

3. The Emotions

- Is 65:14
- Jn 11:33, 38



Definition of a “Spiritual Leader”

“A husband who is learning to recognize his wife’s spirit/heart, understand it, knows how to care for it, and is becoming more aware of the Holy Spirit leading him.”

1 Samuel 1:1-18

Two gold wedding rings are shown, one slightly behind and to the right of the other, both resting on a white surface. The rings are simple, smooth bands with a polished finish.