

God's Design for Marriage

Week 8



Heart/Spirit - Review

- Spiritual intimacy requires trust
- Spiritual intimacy is scary and unilateral
 - Can respond to God
 - Not react to the other person
- 3 Indicators to discern the spirit/heart
- Mechanical thinking vs. Relational thinking

1. Matthew 15:7-10 (Isaiah 29:13)

- “This people honors me with their lips...
- But their heart is far from Me
- In vain do they worship Me
- Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.”

1. Matthew 15:7-10 (Isaiah 29:13)

- “This people honors me with their lips...
 - They say the right things
 - Do some of the right things, performing the way they’re supposed to perform
 - Looking good on the outside
- But their heart is far from Me
 - Their hearts hide true thoughts & feelings
 - Deceitful, going through the motions

2. Proverbs 26:24-25

- “He who hates disguises it with his lips,
 - But he lays up deceit in his heart
 - When he speaks graciously, don’t believe him
 - For there are seven abominations in his heart”
-
- What are the 2 things important to God?

2 Relationship Functions Important to God

- **Lips**, mouth, spoken words
- **Heart** has its own thoughts and intentions
- God is not fooled
- We may be able to sense the contrast in someone's speech and heart.

Two gold wedding rings are shown, one slightly behind and to the left of the other, both resting on a white surface. The rings are simple, polished bands. The text "I'm sorry" is overlaid in a blue serif font across the center of the rings.

“I’m sorry”

3. Psalm 19:14

- “Let the words of my **mouth**
- And the meditations of my **heart**
- Be acceptable in Your sight,
- My rock and my Redeemer.”
- God wants these two to be in alignment

These Two Functions Are Useful

- Husband fulfilling his role as servant leader, ruler, protector, etc.
- Wife fulfilling her role as “Helper Suitable”
- Developing a deeper spiritual intimacy.
- Relationship problem resolution

Two gold wedding rings are shown, one slightly behind and to the left of the other, both resting on a white surface. The rings are simple, polished bands. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in a blue serif font across the center of the rings.

Questions?

1. Lips, words (“Content Level”)

- The **topic** of conversation, the issue, facts
- What someone is talking about
- Can include behaviors
- “I’m sorry”

2. Heart Level

- What's happening **between us** while we're talking about the content, **right now**.
- Reflects the **relationship**, spiritual intimacy as it stands at the moment of interaction.

Heart Level Markers

- Emotions
- Patterns
- Assumptions
- Motivation
- Body language / Voice tone



Emotions

- One of the three indicators of the heart
- Often, the easiest marker to identify
- “**Temperature gauge**” of the thoughts and intentions of the heart

Patterns

- He said / She said in a familiar pattern
- Everyone knows where it will **end** up.
- Many kinds of patterns, often unique to the couple.
- **Escalation**: repeated countering by each spouse.

Assumptions

- The **thoughts** a person tells themselves about the other person or the context.
- Mostly unseen or undetected.
- Frequently a conclusion drawn from a previous wound.

Motivations (or Motives)

- Also mostly unseen.
- The reason(s) a person says what they are saying and doing what they are doing.
- E.g., Retaliation: they hurt me so I'm going to make them hurt as much as I.

Body Language / Voice Tone

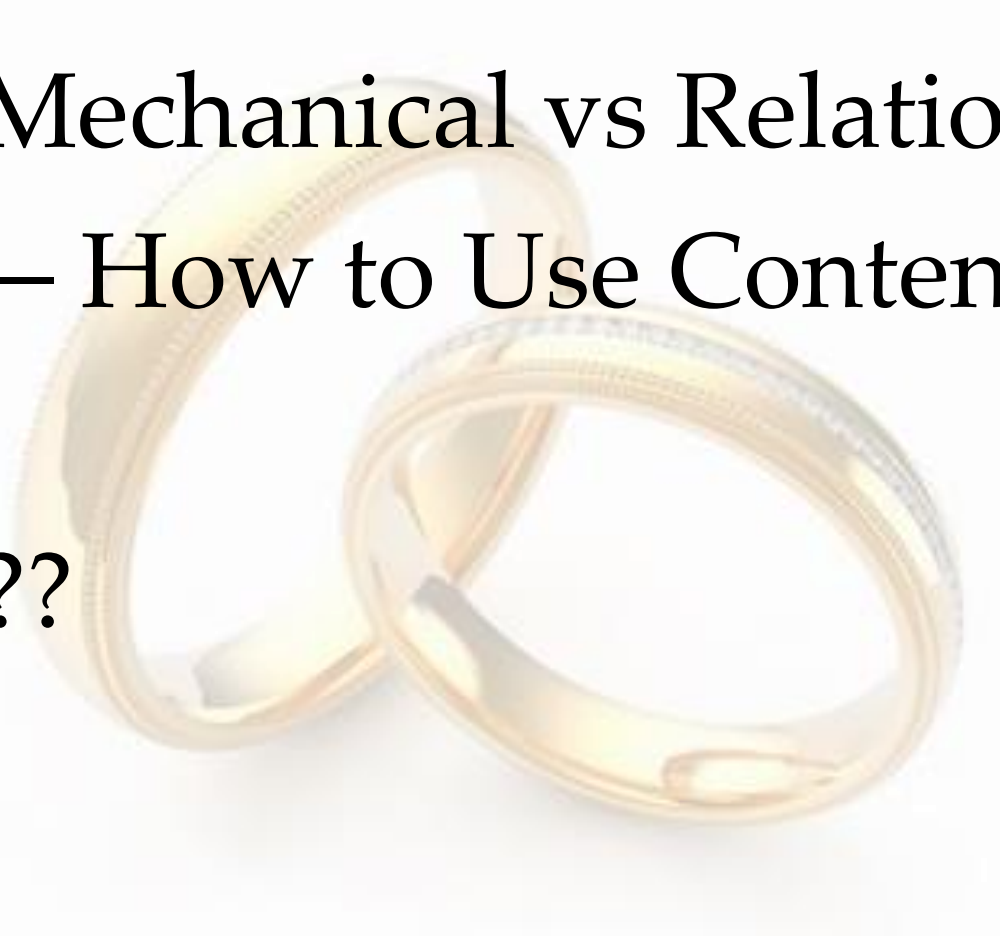
- Posture – open, closed, aggressive, etc.
- Eyes and countenance
- Voice – loud, soft, angry, etc.

Mechanical vs Relational Thinking

- Husbands tend to be **mechanical** thinkers
 - Husbands communicate well on what level?
- **Content**
- Wives tend to be **relational** thinkers
 - Wives communicate well on what level?
- **Heart**

Example

- Example – Mechanical vs Relational
- Next Week – How to Use Content / Heart
- Questions???



Homework



Two interlocking gold rings are positioned in the center of the slide. The rings are simple, polished bands that overlap each other, creating a continuous loop. The lighting is soft, highlighting the metallic sheen of the gold.

Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:12-17