

Openness and Hierarchy

She wants you to open up to her; he wants
appreciation to protect and provide

COUPLE/CHAIRS

Closeness and Conquest – be close to her, allow him to conquer his
world to work and achieve

Openness is her desire to be open with her

We have discussed this numerous times in the past. Women want us to
be open and conversant.

Openness- she wants you to open up to her

- She longs for love
 - Experienced by connecting openly with his heart
- Expressive - responsive vs. compartmentalized
 - her mind, body, soul are all interconnected and her entire system reacts to feelings of hurt
 - he plays it close to vest and won't talk

Women desire love – that's the love part of love and respect
Best way to love a woman is by connecting with her heart to heart

Expressive–responsive vs compartmentalized

She is interconnected and it is important for men to recognize that. If there is one thing wrong in the relationship, everything is wrong in the relationship

Men are compartmentalized. They can be upset about something and go about the day as if nothing has happened and might not even remember it when he gets home at night.

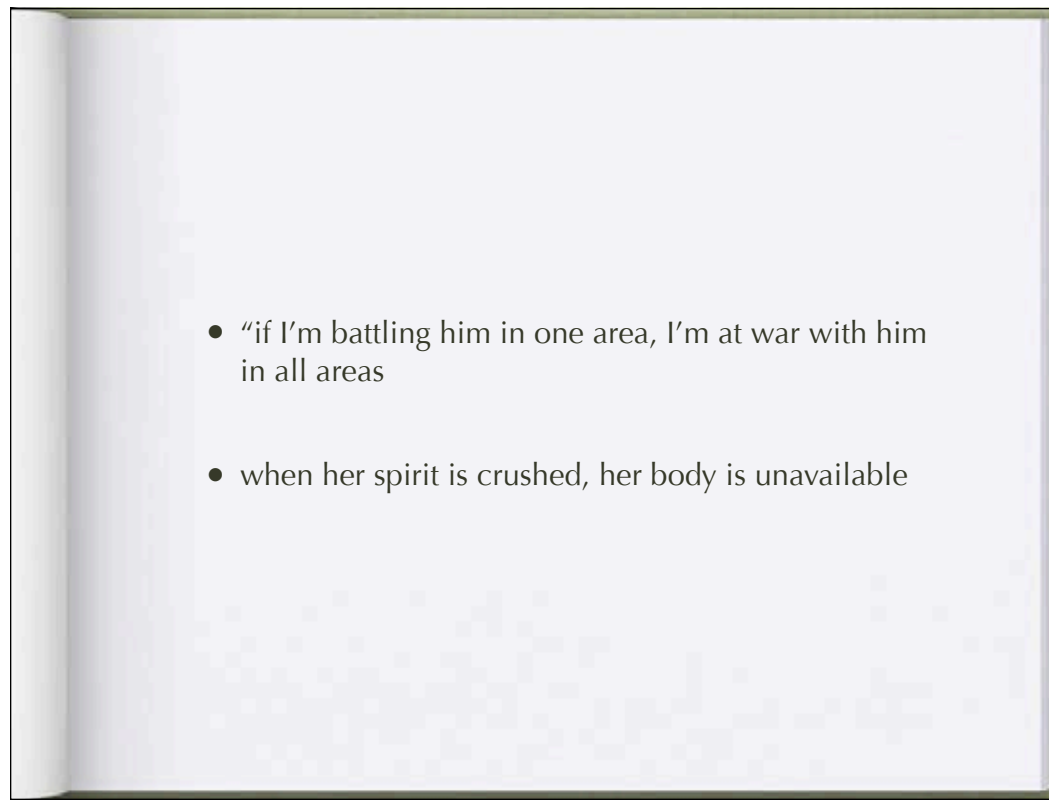
Christmas Lights

Expressive-responsive

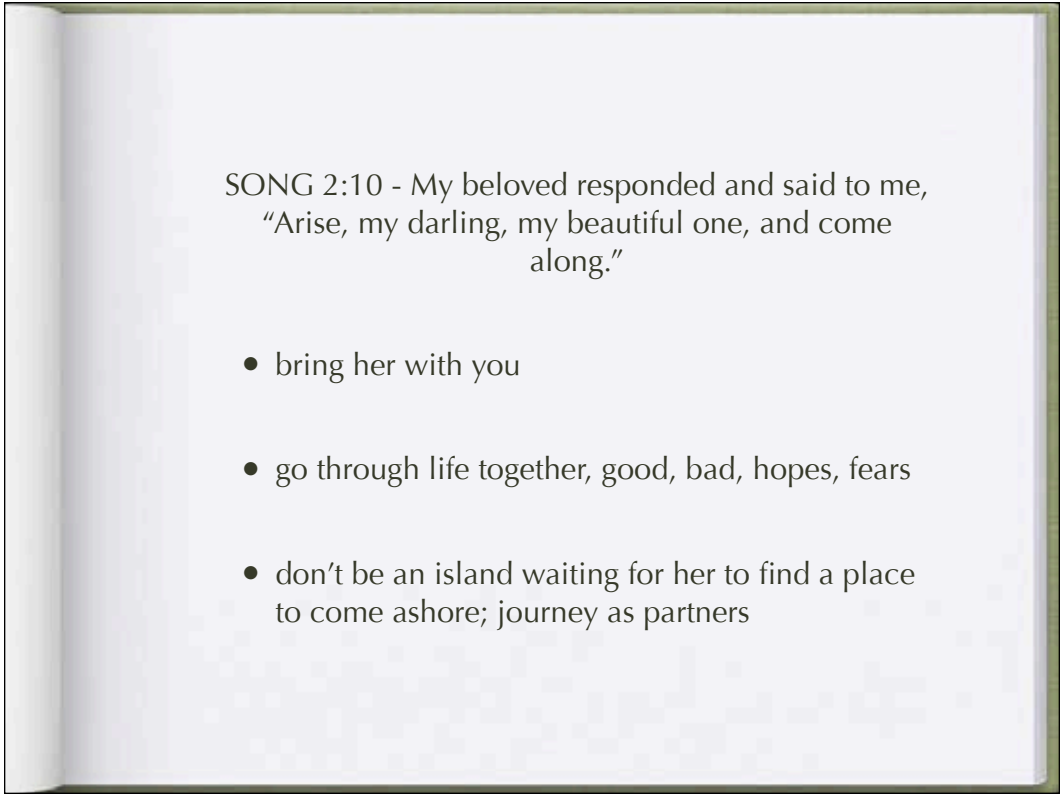


Compartmentalized





These are some examples of the feelings that a woman feels when upset.



SONG 2:10 - My beloved responded and said to me,
"Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come
along."

- bring her with you
- go through life together, good, bad, hopes, fears
- don't be an island waiting for her to find a place to come ashore; journey as partners

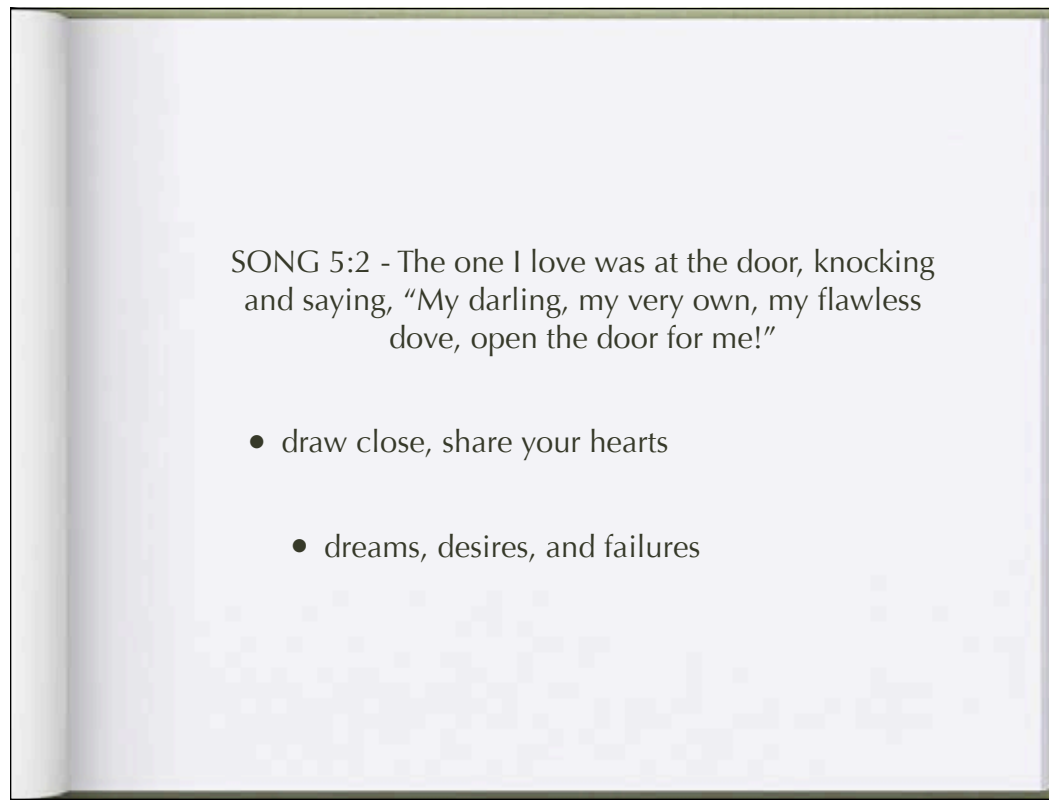
SONG of Solomon

She wants you to bring her along with you and that means all aspects.

Woman want openness by connectedness.

Many men are like islands and the woman is rowing looking for a place to come ashore. It appears that there is no place for them to land as he appears to refuse her access.

Let her ashore to talk, and journey through life as true partners. Be stranded together on that island.



SONG 5:2 - The one I love was at the door, knocking
and saying, "My darling, my very own, my flawless
dove, open the door for me!"

- draw close, share your hearts
- dreams, desires, and failures

Stand at the door to her heart.

Remember that heart to heart is face to face. As Solomon says – go in to her and share with her.

All your thoughts are desired to be known by your wife and by sharing them you become open and that is what she desires to be connected to you.

Is she up-to-date?

- Frequent discussion about marital issues
 - major problem? or ounce of prevention
- afraid of being controlled, “fixed”
 - remember her desire for connection

Up to Date?

Through her desire for openness she will frequently want to discuss marital issues.

This doesn't mean there is a problem but most often she is trying to prevent a problem. Men need to understand from a woman's point of view that frequent discussions about issues doesn't necessarily mean there is an issue but that she is trying to prevent one. Or if there is one, she is trying to keep it small or minor.

Men worry about becoming fixed... they are not trying to fix you, they are trying to connect to you.

Men fear that opening up and sharing thoughts and emotions might lead to rejection but that is the opposite of what a woman wants

Beware of becoming bitter about her moving toward you

Don't be Embittered

- COL 3:19 - Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them
 - Bitter ^{Greek} - "bitter taste in the mouth"
 - upset, irritated, harsh, cynical, resentful
 - closes off his heart

Listen to the gentle prodding of the Holy Spirit to avoid this bitterness

John 14: 17,26 Jesus told his disciples and us that the Holy Spirit abides with us and in us and will be our teacher when needed.

We need to listen to that voice in times of trouble whether outside the marriage but especially within it. Prayer and openness to the Spirit will guide you to the appropriate openness with your wife

She's a Sensitive Creature

- Sensitivity
 - ...allows her to stay up all night with sick kids
 - ...drives her to wait on you when you are down
 - ...causes her to feel you are closing her off
- Opening up to her allows the connection she so desires
 - tell her about your day, how you feel, what you desire

Don't let her sensitivity be a stumbling block to your ability to be open.

Don't allow it to close you off to her because the connection that she desires won't be there

Be open through body language and verbally. Something that may seem mundane to you may be the type of thing that she is wanting to hear.

Your wife feels you are open to her when...

...you share your feelings, telling about your day and difficulties

...your face shows you want to talk - relaxed body language, good eye contact

...you pray with her

...you discuss financial concerns, possible job changes, or ideas for your future

Hierarchy - appreciate his desire to protect and provide

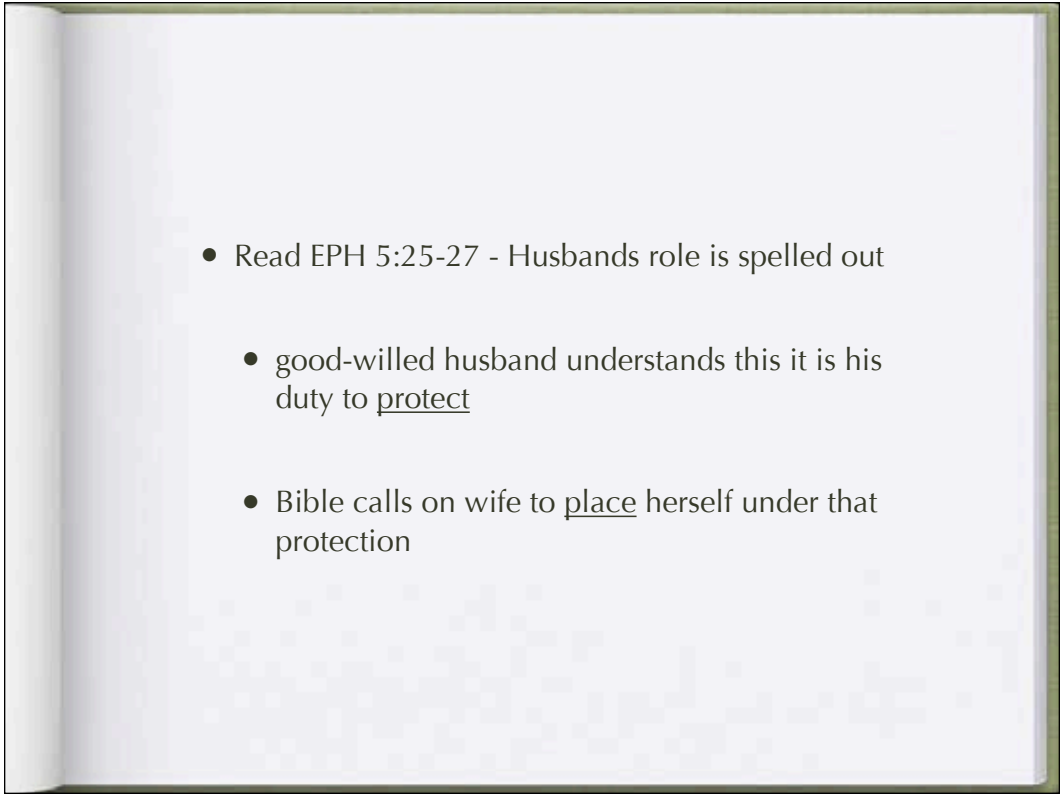
- 1TIM 5:8 - But if anyone does not provide for his own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
- it is biblical for a man to want to protect and provide

Biblical Hierarchy

- EPH 5:22-24 - Wives be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything

- **Submit** ^{Greek} - *hupotasso*; to rank under or place under
- This is a voluntary action
 - just as Jesus voluntarily gave up his existence in the form of God
 - because it is voluntary, it is the ultimate form of respect to another

Submit is not an involuntary action it is completely voluntary

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- Read EPH 5:25-27 - Husbands role is spelled out
 - good-willed husband understands this it is his duty to protect
 - Bible calls on wife to place herself under that protection

Husbands love wives as themselves as Christ loves the church and gave himself up for her.

That she would be holy and blameless

We are to protect our family and willing to die for them

Men Sensitive too?

- Men are sensitive to put downs in the area of providing for the family
 - “you need to get a second job”
- Men are more vulnerable to criticism when it is related to “headship” issues

Men are sensitive to their ability to provide.

Tell story of wife stating he needed second job as she was going around a friend's new house

Men are sensitive during conflicts when he hears put downs because we see ourselves as "over" the family

**Your husband will feel you appreciate
his desire to protect and provide when...**

...you praise his commitment to provide for and protect you and the family (he needs to know it is not taken for granted)

...you never mock the idea of "looking up to him" as your protector to prevent him from "looking down on you"

...you never, in word or body language, put down his job or how much he makes

Next week:

Understanding and Authority