



Marriage & Family

God's Good Plan

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GCW Camp 2021

Session 4



*What Does Love
Have to Do with It?*

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Husbands are to love their wives

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5: 25-27 (ESV)

Wives are to love their husbands

Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine.

They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands.

Titus 2: 3-5 (ESV)

God's Definition of Love

Love is patient and kind, love does not envy or boast; is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

I Corinthians 13: 4-7 (ESV)

** Greek – irritable and does not count up wrongdoing*



*What Is Falling in Love?
(Romantic Love)*

Attraction and “Falling in Love”

- 1. Ideal/Realized Self: positive aspects either idealized or realized of self*
- 2. Unrealized/Complementary Self: potential to grow or make up lack in self*
- 3. Romanticism: pleasurable emotions elicited by a fantasized mystique*
- 4. Sexuality: sexual/sensual communication*
- 5. Mystery: belief that a “greater power” has brought two people together*

Romantic Love (fantasized love) may be appropriate in initial attraction, but soon must take a secondary position to Marital Love which is based on a more realistic evaluation of the relationship

Falling in Love

A large part of “falling in love” is “falling in love with oneself” –

It is an essentially emotional, at times obsessional, response to an idealized situation (conscious or unconscious) whereby 1) one’s Ideal/Realized Self is perceived to be discovered in another as well as 2) the potential to realize one’s Unrealized/Complementary Self which may be amplified by perceived sexual attraction, romanticism, and mystery.

To the degree that this happens outside of one’s awareness (unexpectedly), the emotional impact may be likewise intensified.



Analysis of Love

Character of Love

“Agape Love” (I Corinthians 13:4-7 - NIV) is patient, is kind, does not envy, does not boast, is not proud, is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs, does not delight in evil, rejoices in the truth, always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres (basically manifested by a decision “for” loving someone – is self-sacrificial)

Nature of Love

*A. Components of Love: (based upon
Triangular Theory of Love; Robert
Sternberg, 1988 Yale University)*

1) Intimacy 2) Passion 3) Commitment

B. Compatibilities of Love (Williams)

1) Values 2) Personality 3) Sexuality

Intimacy

The aspect of closeness and vulnerability. One may need to consider intellectual, physical, social, recreational, aesthetic, spiritual, as well as emotional closeness

** Is intimacy like Phileo love?
(friendship)*

Passion

Refers to elements of romance, attraction, and sexuality in your relationship. Being "alive" to each other. Intense drive and excitement.

Song of Solomon.

** Is passion like Eros love? (sensual esp. sexual "aliveness" and desire)*

Commitment

Short-term: decision to love someone

Long-term: commitment to maintain that love

**Is commitment like Storge love?*

(responsible love)



Values

*Stem from one's world view and
background expressed through
beliefs, preferences
aspirations, and expectations*

Personality

Stems from both nature/nurture comprising of temperament, intellect, aptitudes, achievement levels, communication style/ability, learning style, sense of humor among others

Sexuality

Comprises of knowledge, desire and ability, flexibility and comfort, preferences, attraction variables (both personal and physical): functionality, variety, and frequency

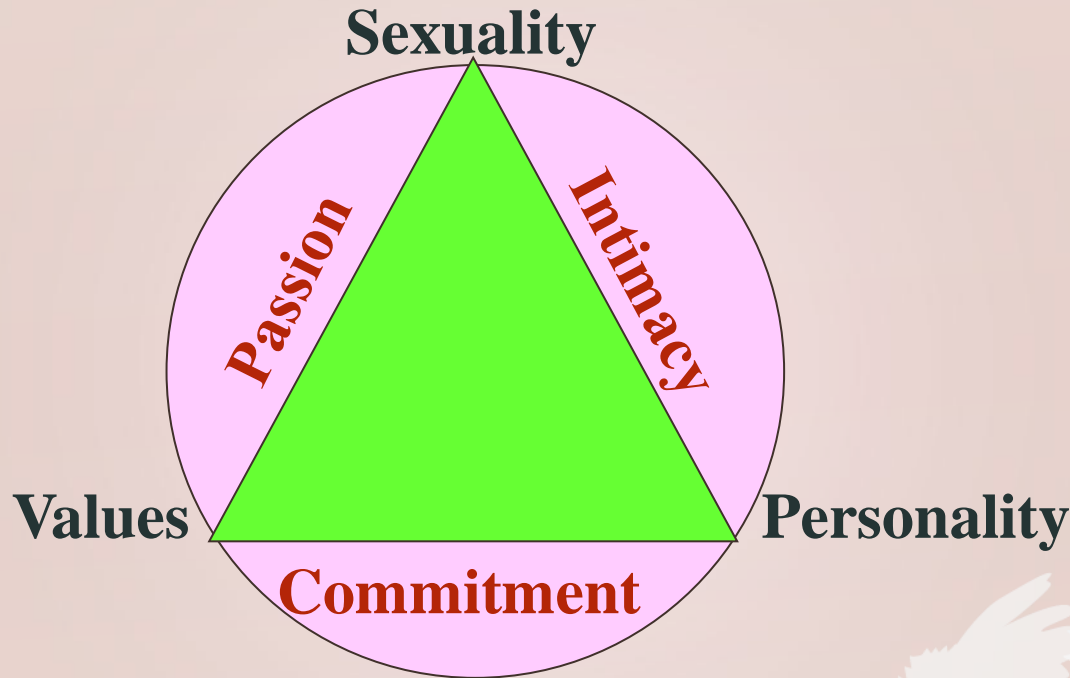
Love Depicted:

Components of Love

“superimposed over”

Compatibilities of Love

Character of Love (Agape*)



The circle is to demonstrate that all points of the triangle are interrelated and are not mutually exclusive of one another. Agape love (God's love) places love in a self-sacrificial position under God. In any type of relationship demonstrating Agape love must include some degree of commitment

Nature of Connecting

A. Components of Connecting

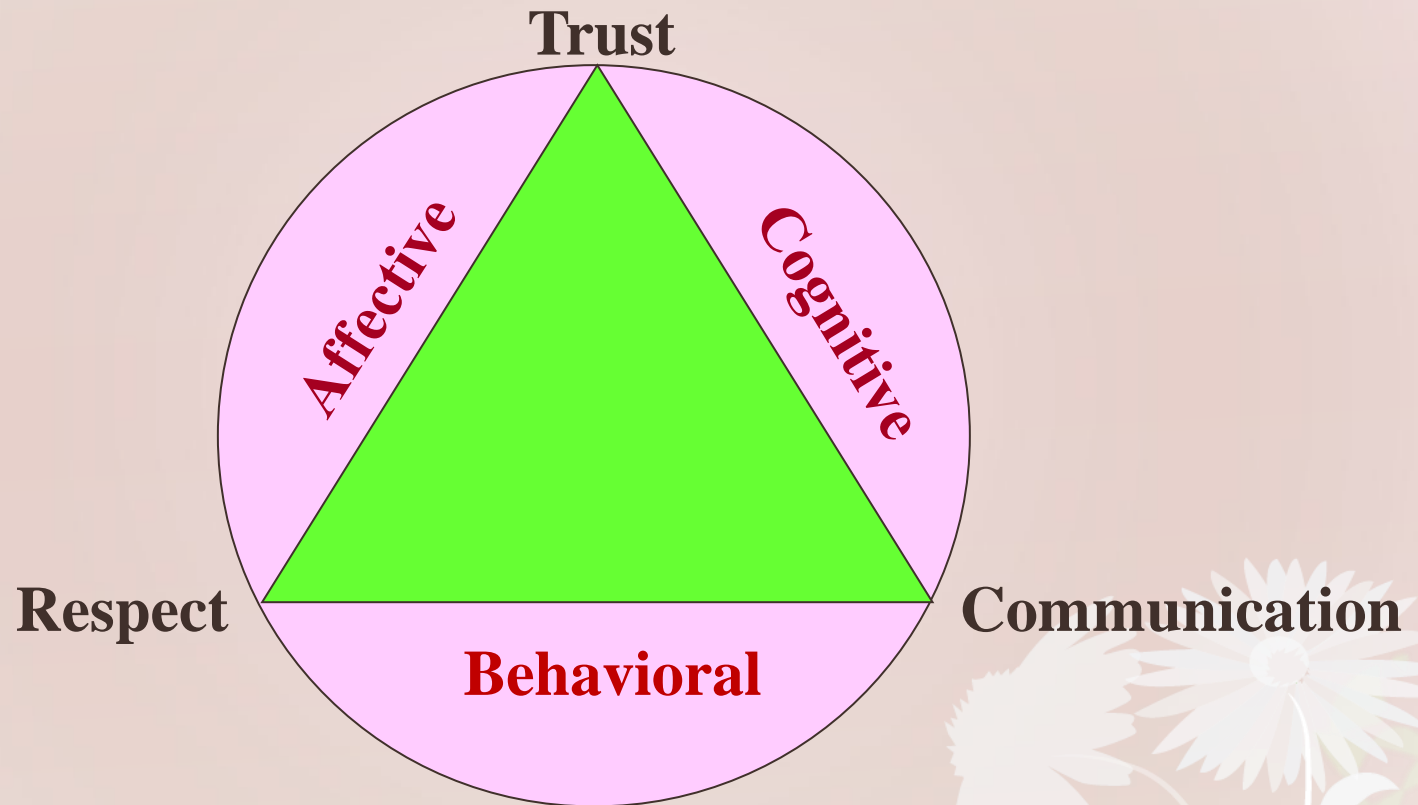
- a. Cognitive*
- b. Affective*
- c. Behavioral*

B. Compatibilities of Connecting

- a. Respect*
- b. Trust*
- c. Communication*

Connecting Depicted

Components of Connecting “superimposed over” Compatibilities of Connecting



The circle is to demonstrate that all points of the triangle are interrelated and are not mutually exclusive of one another.

Nature of Oneness
(*Complementary Wholeness*)

Similarity – *in substance – latent elements (e.g. intellect, values, goals, solidity of self, sexual interest, etc.)*



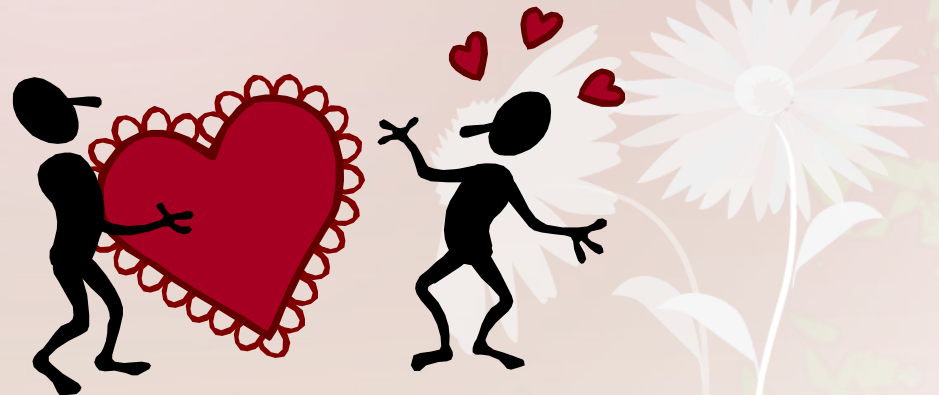
Nature of Oneness
(*Complementary Wholeness*)

Difference – *in form – manifest elements (e.g. aptitudes, operation, means, roles, sexual expression, etc.)*



Communicating Love (Ephesians 4:1-3, 20-32)

With humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, keeping unity, speaking truth, not sinning in our anger, edifying one another, giving grace, without bitterness, showing kindness, tender-heartedness, forgiveness

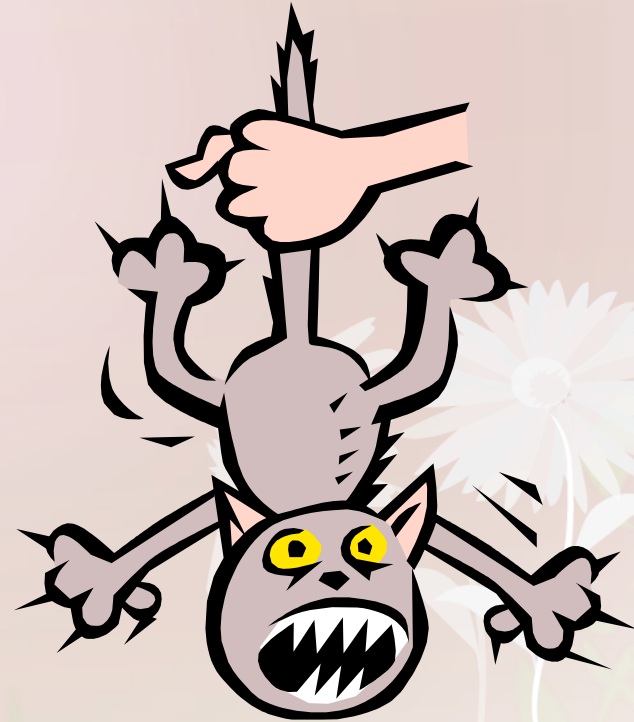


Other notes on Communication:

(U. of Washington – Dr. John Gottman)

Couples who divorce have a tendency to:

- 1. Be Critical*
- 2. Be Defensive*
- 3. Show Contempt*
- 4. “Stonewall” (Withdraw)*



Other notes on Communication:

(U. of Washington – Dr. John Gottman)

Couples who do not divorce have a tendency to:

- *Be able to see the others point of view*
- *Continue to express affection*
- *Have an appropriate sense of humor when disagreements arise*
- * *Continue investing in one another (Williams)*



