

**Song of Solomon 6:2-13  
Sex, God and Love, Part 7  
The Language of Forgiveness**

**John Gray became a household name and an overnight millionaire with his bestselling book – Men are from Mars women are from Venus**

His book he helped pp realize this Fact:  
**Men and women are different**

We **think** differently we **see things** differently and we **feel things** differently

**Examples: Going out**

A) Things are simple for a man – women are a little more complex

B) Women dress to express themselves – men dress {well} so that they won't be naked!

C) When a woman is going out she has to decide if she is going to wear **her hair up or down**, flats or heels, slacks of a dress, Jewelry or no Jewelry  
**Lots of make up or little make up**

D) A Man picks up the some clothes off the floor smells them and if there is no visible stains he has an outfit

**Another difference: YOU know how a man tells another man he appreciates him – He insults him**

A) Hey Fat boy – how you doing –

B) Never hear a woman yell across the parking lot  
**Hey Fat girl**

C) A guy will go up to his friend and say – **hey did you get dressed in the dark today?**

1) A woman might think it –but she would never say it

D) A man will come up to his buddy – touch his stomach and say: **put on a few lbs lately** –  
1) Women never do that

**Communication is another area where men and women are different.**

A) Most women are good at expressing themselves

Many men are not

B) But as good as women are at expressing themselves sometimes they **speak in CODE** –

C) A guy comes home from work – Says Hi honey how was your day – She responds FINE!

D) Here is where the **code comes in**: He has to pay attention to **THE TONE** of her Answer

1) If she says Fine – this way: **Happy – means Fine**

2) If she says Fine – this way: **Sharp – means Bad**

**Here is what happens if he misses the tone: He hears fine and thinks great – she had a good day.**

A) So he wanders into the family room and picks up that male therapy device called the remote control

Completely unaware of what just transpired

B) 2 hrs pass and he wonders why he didn't get dinner.

C) If goes to her and says – **Honey is something wrong – she answers no – which really means yes**

1) But it also means you weren't interested in finding out 3 hrs ago – so don't think I am going to tell you now!

CC) How many of you know what I am talking about

D) That is totally a woman thing – Most men don't play those kind of head games – not smart enough

**We have our own code – much simpler – I picked this up off the internet MAN CODE**

"Take a break, honey, you're working too hard."

--- Really means ---

"I can't hear the game over the vacuum cleaner."

"Can I help with dinner?"

--- Really means ---

"Why isn't it already on the table?"

"Uh huh," "Sure, honey," or "Yes, dear."

--- Really means ---

Absolutely nothing. It's a MALE conditioned response

**"We're going to be late."**

--- Really means ---

**"Now I have a legitimate excuse to drive like a maniac."**

"That's women's work."

--- Really means ---

"It's difficult, dirty, and thankless."

You know how bad my memory is."

--- Really means ---

"I remember the theme song to Happy days, the address of our first house- Vehicle Identification Numbers of every car I've ever owned, but I forgot your birthday."

"Hey, I've got my reasons for what I'm doing."

--- Really means ---

"And I sure hope I think of some pretty soon."

"We share the housework."

--- Really means ---

"I make the messes, she cleans them up."

**John Gray was right men and women are different – however – he made a small error – Men are not from Mars and women are not from venus**

No they have both been created by God and their differences are by Divine design {No accident

Here is what is really interesting to me – the Bible doesn't really highlight our differences Accept in 1 Peter 3:7 – Peter refers to the wife as the weaker ....

**1 Peter 3:7**

**Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel.ESV**

A)"The word **vessel**" used of priceless, fragile china.

B)It was also used of sacred vessels used in the temple for the worship of God.

C)When Peter says that women are **the Weaker Vessel** - He is not saying she is inferior in anyway

1)Quite the contrary – he is saying she needs to be honored.

**D)He is also not referring to moral character or to intellectual ability or to spiritual perception.**

1)It refers primarily to the difference in physical strength between men and women.

**E)She is more delicate – like the sacred vessels in the temple – made of fine stuff**

1)Men are like a root beer mug – women like fine china

**I think it also has something to do with a woman's emotional make up – she is going to be more emotional about things Feel things deeply –**

A)Men bounce back – things don't affect us on an emotional level like it does a woman.

**B)That is the only real difference the Bible makes about the make up of a man and a woman.**

**What it does instead is focuses on where they are the same.**

A)That is why I had you turn to Ephesians 5– see where we are the same. {Where this passage starts

B)Last week we looked at how this passage ended in v.33 **“Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”**

C)In that one verse is a summary of everything that Paul said in the Previous 10 verses

**D)He starts with the Husband – he is to love his wife as He loves himself.**

**A lot of guys wonder what does it mean to love my wife like Christ loved the Church.**

A)That is the answer right there – Love her and seek to take care of her like you do yourself.

B)You know how to nurture your body – Feed clothe protect – respond to pain –

C)Quick to forgive yourself as when you have erred

1)Quick to show grace to ourselves – be that way with your wife.

**D)You are very sensitive to your own needs and God wants you to be sensitive in that same way toward her!**

**That is the message summed up to the husband  
The message summed up to the wife is Respect**

A) I really like this word – because it really helps define what Paul is saying by submission.

**B) Respect speaks of being submitted and supportive**

1) A Soldier will submit to his commanding officer so that he doesn't get into trouble

D) But if he respects his commanding officer he will not only submit but support

**Some ladies are submitted but not supportive which means – they are not respecting their husbands**

A) So whenever he makes a bad call/ decision – they love to throw it in his face – not supportive

**B) Respect speaks of a woman who is submitted to her husband – and the place of leadership God gave**

1) She supports him in that role and wants to be his helper – chief advisor – head cheer leader

C) Realizes they are in this thing together

1) Marriage is an ordered equality { One flesh – called them Adam – Gave THEM – DOMINION .....

**D) A Man who loves his wife will – seek her counsel and input – on matters**

1) They will Prayerfully make decisions together.

**So to the man He says love, take care and be sensitive to your wife/ LIKE YOU love, care and are sensitive to your own needs**

A) Treat her the way that you like to be treated – be in tune with her like you are w/ your own body

B) That is a tall order especially because she can be so different –

1) AND because we can be so self-centered.

C) For the wife – She **is to Respect her husband** ie she is to be submissive and supportive

1) That is tough for her – because part of the curse is she will have a natural desire to lead to rule over...

**So all that means is that both the Husband and the wife need Help from God to fulfill their roles**

A) Starting point for Marriage rd V.18 – Lit **Be continually being filled** – YOU LEAK

B) Here is what that means: I need HIS daily empowering to be the Husband called me to be

C) I am dependent upon the Spirit of God – to make me sensitive to my wife's needs

1) To empower me to be selfless instead of selfish

D) So **a daily prayer needs to be Lord empower me** and help me today in my marriage to walk after the spirit and not after the flesh

**1) My wife needs to pray in that same way!**

Next Paul tells us what

**Walking in the Spirit being empowered by the Spirit of God being sensitive to the spirit- looks like v.19,20**

A) Not going thru house singing like a musical – “Do you want some dinner – Yes I would love a steak

B) But the atmosphere is one of Joy – thanksgiving – and grace

C) Does that describe the atmosphere in your home?

**Notice also v.21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.**

A) Before he says one word to the wife about Submission or Husband about love

B) He says – You need to CONTINUALLY being filled with My Spirit -

C) And there needs to be a mutual submission to me and to each other

D) The fear of God speaks of a reverence for God –

1) His way is best – He loves us – therefore – we want to walk in it.

E) More than I want to be right– I want to be right with God.

**So the Bible upholds – this is how you are the same – Same commission – Submission / Love / respect**

A) In need of the same Help

B) **Empowered by the same Spirit!**

C) Redeemed by the same blood

Another area where we are the Same is in the need to be forgiving – turn to Song of Solomon ch.6

**Saw last week – this couple – conflict –**

A) She was feeling unloved & neglected - Solomon came home late

B) Solomon felt disrespected wife – locked him out of the room – She goes to sleep

C) **He didn't seek to fix things makes no effort to see what is wrong {He just leaves**

1) He gets up early off to work – without a word  
Both of them are wrong! -

D) Beginning of a pattern and cycle that will send this marriage into a major tale spin

1) Ultimately kill it –

E) **Best case scenario** – they are two pp continuing to live in the same house - but with no real relationship

1) Worse case: One or both of the partners seek what they are not getting at home somewhere outside of it

**What they are both called to is FORGIVENESS – and that forgiveness needs to be expressed that is exactly what we see happens**

NOTE: Forgiveness is a nonnegotiable – Required – might need to ask daily for help –

**Why are we to forgive: Simple Because we have been forgiven – Jesus died for my sin –**

A) Died for the Sins of the Spouse that sinned against you.

B) No right to ever hold a grudge against Denise – I have been forgiven of so much!

C) Peter 7 times – 70X7=490 – don't count !

2<sup>ND</sup> NOTE: When trust has been broken – Adultery betrayal – Porn –

**Forgiveness is required but TRUST – takes time to build back – time and consistent behavior and actions**

The wounded party needs time to see if the repentance is real!

Important that we understand that

**What we're talking about here is more the normal day to day conflicts that need to be worked out so they don't turn into something bigger.**

**Recall that she fell asleep and had a nightmare – She goes looking for Solomon – Wakes up –**

A) That is exactly what she does – She feels bad and wants to make things right

**#1 Somebody has to make the first move!** – You can stew or you can forgive and move to reconcile

A) She makes the first move and goes to Solomon

B) Notice what she says in V.3 **“I am my beloved's, And my beloved is mine. He feeds his flock among the lilies.”**

C) In this we see her repentance – for her behavior – repent: Means to change your mind –

D) She was thinking this way: I was mad at him – but not anymore. –

E) The change of mind results in a change of behavior and direction.

1) The night before she wanted nothing to do with him and now she can't live without him.

**#2 There has to be genuine repentance**

Notice how he responds:

**4 O my love, you are as beautiful as Tirzah,  
Lovely as Jerusalem,  
Awesome as an army with banners!**

**5 Turn your eyes away from me,  
For they have overcome me.**

**Your hair is like a flock of goats  
Going down from Gilead.  
6 Your teeth are like a flock of sheep  
Which have come up from the washing;  
Every one bears twins,  
And none is barren among them.  
7 Like a piece of pomegranate  
Are your temples behind your veil.**

### #3 Forgiveness needs to be communicated –

A)She comes to say she is sorry and to seek forgiveness  
He doesn't just say – ok fine – lets move on –

B)He greets her with words of love - IN doing so we see his own repentance –

1)I might have been mad or disappointed w/ you last night – BUT NOT NOW

**4 O my love, you are as beautiful as Tirzah,  
Lovely as Jerusalem,  
Awesome as an army with banners!**

Tizrah means delight {Tizrah was a beautiful ancient city – of the kings of Canaan

Jerusalem was THE PRIZE OF ISRAEL!

### Awesome as an army with Banners – Repeats twice again V.10

A)The greatest sight to a soldier who has escaped from the enemy – or who was out in the field –

B)Is to find his way back to His city of refuge – back to that place of strength – back to his army with banners

C)Solomon's way of saying my relationship with you is my refuge – place of strength

D)I can get fired at from all sides – I can get beat up all day – Love to come home – refuge – shelter

E)Jesus and my wife – Provide that – If Denise and I are at odds – HORRIBLE!

### By reciting the same words he used on their wedding night he is basically saying – Nothing has Changed –

A)He still loves her and feels the same way.

B)When he says in V.5 turn your eyes away – basically saying – just seeing you gets me excited  
But I am not going to use this situation to get sex

C)Not going to seize this moment for his own personal gratification – not use it

D)Not going to disrespect you in that way – It might even be a way of saying – You mean more to me than just sex

### Wife needs to know that fellas – She means more to you than just cook, clean, iron and sex -

**8 There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, and virgins without number.**

**9 My dove, my perfect one, is the only one, the only one of her mother, the favorite of the one who bore her.**

**The daughters saw her and called her blessed, The queens and the concubines, and they praised her.**

**10 Who is she who looks forth as the morning, Fair as the moon, clear as the sun, Awesome as an army with banners?**

### This still predates Solomon going off the deep end pursuing lust – adding 700 wives / 300 concubines

A)But his popularity has been growing - Kings and queens have been seeking at audience with him

B)So he is saying essentially – there are queens all of the world – Virgins – girls who haven't yet experienced marital love

C)There are Concubines – glorified – prostitutes women who know how to use their bodies to get ahead

D)I know that being the King I am I could have as many of them as I want -

D)None of them hold a candle to you! – None compare with you. –

1)No matter the category they all admire you and call you blessed.

E)Solomon is Cherishing his wife here – Giving her love as she gave him respect

In a nutshell Solomon was communicating to his bride that in his eyes she was the only woman in the world.

### Solomon and his wife – repent of their wrong attitudes / repent of their stubborn pride

A) Notice the result – She says

11 I went down to the garden of nuts  
To see the verdure of the valley,  
To see whether the vine had budded  
And the pomegranates had bloomed.

12 Before I was even aware,  
My soul had made me  
As the chariots of my noble people.

She said I went down to the garden to find out if there was still hope for fruitfulness in this relationship – what I discovered is my husband and love had fully forgiven me

### Picture of Full restoration

12 Before I was even aware,  
My soul had made me  
As the chariots of my noble people.

In the Hebrew culture one of the highest forms of **recognition that reconciliation** had been granted was to ask THAT person to ride in your Chariot with you.

**It was a sign of total trust {CLOSE} as well as a public display of relationship between you two.**

### Result is closeness { Solomon says

13 Return, return, O Shulamite;  
Return, return, that we may look upon you!

What would you see in the Shulamite —  
As it were, the dance of the two camps?

**Shulamite was actually the nickname for his bride – It was derived from his name – In the Hebrew Solomon is Shlomo –**

A) By Calling her the Shulamite it was like saying she is one with me – part of me –

1) The same as me

### The dance of the two camps – two camps at war – partying now that the dance was over

I don't know about you – but I like to party a lot more than I like to make war –

B) Jesus first miracle was at a Wedding celebration – turned water into wine

1) Save a young couple from embarrassment

C) Marriage is where miracles are needed the most

Your marriage today: Needs a miracle ?

1. Healing –

2. Going thru motions -

1. Empower me today

2. Make me Sensitive to the spirit