

The Godly Man as A Husband *Fulfilling His Wife's Needs: Love*

Millions of people today are living today in a marital desert of barren grimness. Countless numbers of them have resigned themselves to this long ago and now remain only half alive. Much of this is due to the fact that the husband is not fulfilling the emotional needs of the wife. Women need to be loved. Men need to be admired. Someone has defined love as “An unselfish concern that freely accepts another and seeks his good.” There are at least eight important emotional needs of women which as husbands we have the privilege and responsibility of filling. They are as follows:

1. Leadership. Have you seen the plaque “Where Dad sits is at the head of the table”?
2. Security. That is, steadiness, dependability, trustworthiness.
3. Affection. There are no women worth being called women who do not have a limitless capacity for receiving affection. Affection is different than simply sex.
4. Appreciation.
5. To be cared for and protected.
6. To be talked to. The age of the strong, silent type has long since passed.
7. To continue to feel like a woman. Chasing a woman is not like trying to catch a train. When you've caught the train, you've caught it. But a woman wants to continue to be pursued. Marriage is, in a sense, like a football game. You continue to chase the ball until the whistle blows at the end of the fourth quarter.
8. The need to feel needed.

Teacher, there is probably no area of greater need today than the need for good, sound, Biblical teaching on God's plan for the home. Although your time is limited, please pray that God will enable you to accomplish the objective and that the results will be changed homes and marriages - to the glory of God!

A. Object Of The Lesson

That husbands would:

1. Learn that a woman's great need is love.
2. Learn that they are not able to properly fulfill this need on their own.
3. Be willing to allow Christ to love their wives through them.
4. Be willing to make whatever changes are necessary to reach this goal.

B. Discussion Questions

1. In practical ways, what does it mean that we should “love our wives”?
2. What does it mean in I Peter 3:7 when it says we must “honor our wives”? (This means to take them into consideration on decision-making, to keep them clued in as to what's going on, and to uphold them to the children, their own families, and the general public.)
3. What kind of response does the husband usually get if he is being unkind or showing an unforgiving spirit?
4. What impressed you most out of I Corinthians 13?
5. What are some of the ways we can develop patience? (Romans 5:3 “Tribulation worketh patience”)
6. Why is jealousy so dangerous in a marriage? Proverbs 13:40; Proverbs 6:34,35; Song of Solomon 8:6
7. What are the root causes of jealousy?

C. Suggestions For Conclusion

1. Edgar Guest wrote “It takes a heap of living to make a house a home.” J. W. Goethe wrote: “He is happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace in his home.” Another wrote: “It takes 100 men to make an encampment, but one woman can make a home.” Teacher, you might want to use the following poem.

“A Woman's Answer To A Man's Question”

Do you know you have asked for the costliest thing
Ever made by the Hand above –
A woman's heart and a woman's life
And a woman's wonderful love?

Do you know you have asked for this priceless thing
As a child might ask for - a toy?
Demanding what others have died to win
With the reckless dash of a boy!

You have written my lesson of duty out;
Man-like, you have questioned me.
Now stand at the bar of my woman's soul
Until I question thee.

You require your mutton shall always be hot;
Your socks and your shirts shall be whole.
I require your heart shall be true as God's stars;
And pure as Heaven your soul.

You require a cook for your mutton and beef;
I require a far grander thing.
A seamstress you're wanting for stockings and shirts;
I look for a man and a king.

A king for a beautiful, realm called home,
A man whom the maker, God,
Shall look upon as He did at first,
And say: "It is very good."

I am fair and young, but the rose will fade
From my soft young cheek some day,
Will you love me then, `mid the falling leaves,
As you did `mid the bloom of May?

Is your heart an ocean so strong and deep
I may launch my all on its tide?
A loving woman finds Heaven or hell
On the day she is made a bride.

I require all things that are good and true;
All things that a man should be.
If you give this all I would stake my life
To be all you demand of me.

If you cannot do this, a laundress and cook
You can hire with little to pay;
But a woman's heart and a woman's life
Are not to be won that way.

Mary T. Lathrop

D. Additional Scriptures

Proverbs 14:30 (Amplified); Philippians 2:14 (Living Bible); Colossians 3:8-10; Proverbs 13:10; Proverbs 17:14; I Corinthians 3:3 (Living Bible); James 1:2-4; Hebrews 13:5; Philippians 4:11-12; Romans 5:5; I John 4:10-12,19.

E. Possible Projects

1. Write out a list of your wife's good characteristics and thank God for them every morning in your prayer time for the next week.
2. Memorize I Corinthians 1:1-13
3. Look up the cross-references on the words and phrases. Do a word study on patience, kindness, jealousy or arrogance.
4. Make a personal application from each of the 10 characteristics of love. With a calendar, plan to carry out one application a week for the next 10 weeks. Ask someone to check up on you each week.

5. Tell your wife “I love you” twice a day and express appreciation at least once a day.

F. Extra Helps

Art of Homemaking *by Hoole*

The Miracle of Dialogue *by Reuel L. Howe*

Why Am I Afraid to Tell You Who I Am? *by John Powell*

To Understand Each Other *by Paul Tournier*

The Art of Understanding Your Mate *by Cecil Osborne*

Tell Me Again, I'm Listening by R. B. Wilke, Abingdon Press

Letters To Philip *by Charlie Shedd*

Hidden Art by Edith Schaeffer, Tyndale House