

The Godly Man as A Husband

Fulfilling His Wife's Needs - Leading In Tenderness & Communication

Last week we talked about fulfilling our wife's needs from the standpoint of love. This week our topic is tenderness. Most men are not, by nature, tender. Sometimes it is difficult for a husband to realize that a wife is a tender plant. That perhaps is the reason why in Colossians 3:19 it says, "Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly." It is so easy for husbands to have blind spots in this area of tenderness and perhaps the words to the following song express a worthwhile prayer for today - for you the teacher and for each one in your class.

Open My Eyes That I May See

Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp, and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

A. Object Of The Lesson

1. To help the men honestly face areas of need in fulfilling their role as a husband.
2. To learn the necessity of leadership, appreciation, and communication in the marriage.
3. To purpose to cooperate with God to bring about change in their marriage which would glorify God.

B. Discussion Questions

1. How does the word "tenderness" express itself in marriage?
2. What are some of the ways we can show our wives affection?
3. Why are special days so important to women?
4. Why do women want to be told "I love you"?
5. Why do most men hate to tell their wives "I love you"?
6. What are some of the things for which we can express appreciation to our wives?
7. Why do women need to be complimented? 8. To what situations does Amos 3:3 apply?
9. How would you rate or evaluate the importance of communication in marriage? (Teacher, be sure to bring out how totally essential this is to a good marriage. If there is a breakdown in this area, it will significantly influence and contribute to a breakdown or collapse in other areas. It is the "breath of life" to marriage).

10. How many of you pray regularly regarding good communication with your wife? (Should be praying regularly to have the habit, if you don't; to keep it and be growing in it if you do.)

11. What counsel would you give a man who says his wife won't talk to him any more?

12. Wives generally seem to need to communicate verbally more frequently and more in detail than some husbands do, although both have a need for communication. Why do you think this is often more important to a wife? Why do you think it is important for a husband to communicate verbally?

12. Ephesians 4:15 gives perhaps the three most important words to remember for good communication. What are they? (Speak, truth, love)

13. Relate some purposes of communication. (Information, decision-making, developing interpersonal relationships, for the development of persons).

14. What problems or barriers to communication have you found in the Bible? (Teacher, my thoughts on these are as follows:

1. selfishness
2. pride
3. bitterness
4. anger
5. lack of concern
6. lack of knowledge
7. fear of rejection
8. shame
9. going our own way
10. heart condition

C. Suggestions For Conclusion

1. Take 5-10 minutes to allow each one to think through the following questions, jot their thoughts down and pray over them.

In what ways am I failing to fulfill the emotional needs of my wife?

What are some things I can do to help the communication in my marriage?

D. Additional Scriptures - Proverbs 29:23; II Timothy 2:25; Ephesians 4:1-3 (Phillips)

E. Possible Projects

1. Take two pieces of paper and write the following at the top:

Page 1 - front - "My Needs As I See Them."
Page 1 - back - "My Needs As She Sees Them."

Page 2 - front - "Her Needs As I See Them."
Page 2 - back - "Her Needs As She Sees Them."

Fill out the front side and ask your wife to fill out the back side without looking at your side and then compare the two. It is amazing how little we realize what our mate considers a real need.

2. Set aside a time each day for the next week just to listen to your wife and talk to her.

3. Since most problems in question 9 are with the tongue, memorize James 3:8-10. The root problem is that of the heart. Therefore, memorize Matthew 12:34,35. Scripture memory can be used to reprogram the thinking. Psalm 119:9,11; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:16.

F. Extra Helps

The Greatest Thing in the World, *by Henry Drummond*

Learning to Be A Man, *Kenneth G. Smith*

Essays on Love, *Walter Trobisch*

The Marriage Affair, *A. Peterson*

Happiness is Still Homemade, *T. Cecil Mayers*

Design for Christian Marriage, *Small*

The Christian Family, *by Larry Christiansen*