

Session 8 – A Real Man Loves & Protects God's Woman

1. The Four Life-Giving Responsibilities of Timeless Manhood

A Real Man...

Courageously Follows God's word. (Session 7)

Loves and Protects God's woman. (Session 8)

Excels at God's work. (Session 9)

Betters God's world. (Session 10)

2. Winning With Your Wife

A. The Husband Scale



- The lost husband thinks he knows women and guesses about how to live with his wife.

There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

Proverbs 14:12

- The life-giving husband knows he doesn't know women, and that awareness motivates him to seek out wisdom and practical help to live well with his wife.

Husbands, live with your wives according to knowledge... since she is a woman... **1 Peter 3:7**

There's a big difference between really living and just existing. Existing operates on guesswork and instinct. Really living, on the other hand, comes through the exercise of certain learned skills that you have acquired and honed.¹ **Dr. Phil McGraw**

B. Somewhere on this "Husband Scale" is you?

3. What Your Wife Needs Most

A. She needs to feel your heart .

Husbands, love your wives just as Christ also loved the church. Ephesians 5:25

PRIORITY #1 FOR EVERY HUSBAND IS TO MAKE SURE HIS WIFE FEELS LOVED

Social research has confirmed that emotional engagement with her husband is far and away the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR in a woman's happiness in marriage.²

- This is a call to emotionally connect with your wife.

THREE PRACTICAL WAYS TO STIR UP MEANINGFUL "HEART TO HEART" CONNECTIONS:

- **Regularly reassure your wife.**
 - With words of affection. You can never say "I love you" enough.
 - With words of praise: "You're the best"; "You look beautiful"; "You are my best friend"; "You make life fun"; "You bring so much joy to my life."
 - With warm hugs and tender touches that don't always lead to sex.
 - With statements of commitment: "I'll always be there for you"; "I'm yours forever."
- **Pursue your wife.**
 - Leave a note on the bathroom mirror asking her out for a dinner date.
 - Delight her with a thoughtful gift not connected to a special occasion.
 - Call her in the middle of the day just to say, "I've been thinking of you today."
 - In a quiet moment, ask her "How can I love you better?" and then, later on, act on her answer.
 - Write her a personal letter of "why you love her" on her birthday or your anniversary rather than buying her the usual stock card.
 - Surprise her with an overnight or weekend getaway just for fun and relaxation.
- **Speak your wife's love language.**
 - Which language listed below from Dr. Gary Chapman's insightful book,

The Five Love Languages, best “speaks” love to your wife? If you’re not sure, share these with her tonight, and then ask her which one she feels most loved by.³

__ Affirming Words __ Physical Touch __ Quality Time Together
__ Receiving Gifts __ Acts of Service

There is nothing greater to a wife than to FEEL her husband’s heart for her in tangible ways. Such moments are life-giving.

B. She needs to see your faith.

Husbands, keep your wives holy and blameless through the washing of water with the Word. **Ephesians 5:26-27**

● **This is a call to spiritually initiate with your wife.**

This is the spot where Adam failed.

Rather than confront evil and protect his wife with God’s Word (Genesis 2:16-17), he chose instead to become spiritually passive.

He said NOTHING! And his faith became spiritually INVISIBLE

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. **Genesis 3:6**

Adam should have stepped up and shown his faith in this critical moment.

By not doing so, he brought hurt not only on himself, but on his wife too.

As “sons of Adam,” we men are prone to the same spiritual passivity today; and when we go there with our wives, somebody eventually gets hurt.

*The life-giving husband **rejects spiritual passivity** and acts in ways needed to keep his marriage spiritually safe, sound, protected, and on track with eternity.*

THREE PRACTICAL WAYS TO SHOW FAITH TO YOUR WIFE:

1. Initiate times of “spiritual togetherness” with her.

- Pray with her.
- Engage her in spiritual conversations.
- Share with her your spiritual experiences.
- Encourage involvement together at church.

Wives who attend church with their husbands on a weekly basis are happier in their marriages than other women.⁴

2. Uphold biblical values in a number of practical areas (keeping your word, resolving conflict, time with family, giving, avoiding debt, forgiveness, being truthful, church, etc.)

- Talk through these values with your wife.
- Protect her with these convictions.
- Refuse to let go of these convictions even when life gets hard and challenging.

3. Build friendships with other godly men.

Open your life to their spiritual influence and input. Let their counsel and company add strength and maturity to your walk with God. Join them in spiritual adventures. Your wife will be encouraged and reassured by this.

C. She needs the freedom to choose.

Husbands, provide and care for your wives. **Ephesians 5:28-29**

- **This is a call to financially liberate your wife.**

The 21st century has been an amazing time for women.

Everywhere women are experiencing new opportunities, new freedoms, and new breakthroughs.

The number of wives working outside the home has increased dramatically.

Women are doing amazing things.

The irony is, that with these advances has come a marked decrease in the happiness women feel about their lives.

According to the General Social Survey, EVERY YEAR since 1972, women's reported happiness has declined. Why? Much of it has to do with a woman's struggle in balancing work with children and home.⁵

- Husbands are the difference - makers when it comes to a wife's life balance.

The husband who can financially support his family - at least at a basic living level - provides his wife with expanded life options.

With his emotional support and financial backing, she will now feel she no longer has to work full time.

*She is free to choose how much she will work outside the home, which is especially important to her as a mother when children are at home—**and she feels that pull.***

The life-giving husband will seek to give his wife this kind of freedom. And even if present circumstances make this impossible for now, a husband can greatly encourage his wife by striving in this direction.

According to the Pew Research Center in 2012, 67 percent of mothers said their ideal was either part-time work or no work outside the home.⁶

- The more a husband financially provides for his wife (beyond basics), the more choices she will have in how and where she wants to invest her life.

According to the National Survey of Families and Households, "When a husband is a good breadwinner, his wife is afforded more freedom and more life options, which contribute to her happiness."⁷

- Wives today long for husbands who will financially "free them up."

4. The Life-Giving Husband in Summary

A. As an emotional connector, his wife feels loved.

B. As a spiritual initiator, his wife feels protected.

C. As a financial liberator, his wife feels free.

*Here's a secret every woman knows. Women want real men. Men they can count on and look up to. I don't know any woman at any age who is attracted to a passive man who looks to her to be his protector, provider, and leader. Every woman wants a strong, responsible man.⁸ **Allie Stuckey***

Your Table Discussion Questions

1. Which of the three needs addressed in this session would your wife say she “most needs” from you at this time? Why?
2. Which of the three callings of a life-giving husband (as summarized in heading 4) challenges you the most? Explain.

Your “BetterMan” Question

Before our next session, take a moment this week to reflect on your notes, and then answer the following question: What possible action step could I take from this session that could make me a better man? Write your answer down in the space below.