

FAMILY: God's Way

What Your Wife Really Needs

Ephesians 5:25

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

NKJV - "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.."

NVI - "Esposos, amen a sus esposas, así como Cristo amó a la iglesia y se entregó por ella.."

NLT - "For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her.."

MES - "Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting."

Men, to make your wife happy, and to have a great, successful marriage relationship, you don't have to give you wife 10 Million dollars. **Just give her one priceless gift: your LOVE!!** According to Paul the apostle, inspired by the Spirit of God, the principle and primary need that your wife has is LOVE. This is the one thing that Paul commands the husbands to do for their wives - to LOVE them. Just like the husband, the wife also wants to be valued, respected, and honored within the marriage relationship. However, the wife spells respect differently than the man does - she spells it **L-O-V-E !!**

- *Like a scuba diver needs air to breathe, your wife needs **LOVE** to live. She has an "air tank" that carries her through life. She breathes from it; it sustains her; it strengthens her to live from day to day. This "air tank" must be filled with LOVE, for without a constant supply, she will wither and die!*

The actual Greek word that Paul uses here is very important to understanding what God is commanding the husbands to do. The Greek word for "love" is the ancient word "agape" or "agapao". It is one of 4 words used for love in the ancient Greek language:

- **"phileo"** - This is the warm love of **FRIENDSHIP**. Although necessary, this is not what the husbands are commanded!
- **"eros"** - This is the erotic love of **SENSUALITY**. Although important, this is not what husbands are commanded!
- **"stories"** - This is the deep love of **FAMILY**. Although beautiful, this is not what the husbands are commanded!
- **"agape"** - This is the Divine love that God has for us. It is a love that sacrifices, a love that gives to others. It's a love that elevates others above yourself, and puts them before yourself. This is a love that will selflessly give and give, and if necessary, even die for those it loves! This is **AGAPE LOVE!!** (Jn 15:13)

*Agape love is a love of **CHOICE**, not of feeling or emotion. It is a love based upon*

COMMITMENT and **ACTION** regardless of circumstances or sentimental feelings. It is a love based upon **CHOOSING TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT**, not what is easy. Of **CHOOSING TO GIVE**, because God has given to us. This is the type of love a husband is commanded to show to his wife!!

A man was looking at a couple and he leaned over and said to his wife, "Look at them, they look so happy. They look like such a joyful and happy couple." She said, "Don't be too sure, they're probably saying the same thing about us."

*A train has an **ENGINE**, followed by many different train cars...*

Any man who sees the spirit of his wife deflated, depressed, downcast, or dejected, should know that she is probably feeling **UNLOVED**. When this happens, the husband needs to understand that the wife is acting this way, perhaps even being defensive or combative, because for whatever reason, she is feeling UNLOVED in her life. A smart husband will learn to recognize this, decode what she is saying - "You are the only man in my life who can meet my need for love, and right now I desperately need to feel your love for me!"

- *"Don't wait for your spouse to take the first step. Assume the first move is always yours." - Townsend*
- *"It is no accident that strong marriages are the way they are. Good marriages don't just happen. The couples in exceptional marriages are willing to learn and grow; develop a positive and biblical attitude; and discover how to speak their spouse's language and celebrate their differences." - Wright*

To the men, renowned Christian Marriage Counselor, Dr. Emerson Eggerich uses the acronym of **C-O-U-P-L-E** to remind them what their wives truly need. Husbands, this is how you should spell "**LOVE**" to your wife:

C loseness - *She wants you to be close and intimate with her!*

- *It's no coincidence in the pages of the first book of Scripture, in describing the first marriage of human history, there is a living definition of "closeness":*
Gen 2:24 - *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."*
- *When Scripture says "be joined to his wife" the idea is to "cling, hold, and keep close. The two are joined together, face to face, becoming one flesh. Your wife will feel loved when you "move" towards her, by letting her know you want to close to her, with a look, a touch or even a smile.*
- *Many men wrongly think that chasing and pursuing his wife was only for their dating phase, and it ended on their wedding day. But women don't see things that way! There is never really a magic moment of closure where they feel permanently, deeply, fully loved by their husband. They think: "That was the rest of married life is all about!" Husbands, this is why your wife wants you to be CLOSE to her, and continue to pursue her and chase her every day!*

• **Husband, your wife will feel CLOSE to you when:**

- ..you just look at her, lovingly.*
- ..you simply hold her hand, gently.*
- ..you spend time alone together, affectionately.*
- ..you do something unexpected, spontaneously.*

O penness - *She wants you to open up, and share your life with her!*

- **Connecting is what most women look for in any relationship, and especially in marriage.** *A wife feels strongly that if her husband truly loves her in his heart, he will communicate that love to her, naturally and frequently. (Lk 6:45)*
- **This doesn't mean necessarily that a husband must shower his wife with romantic poetry daily.** *But she does expect him to somehow, somehow tell her of his love it it's still in his heart for her. Being close costs you nothing - just some time and some love! She doesn't expect you to become feminine, and she doesn't want you to. But when you move toward her, when you show her you want to connect in even small ways, watch what happens. This movement towards "closeness" will motivate her and energize her.*
Picture a "seesaw" with "Involvement" on one end, and "Independence" on the other...

• **Husband, your wife will feel OPEN with you when:**

- ..you learn to take time to speak with her about your dreams.*
- ..you cultivate the habit of sharing your feelings with her.*
- ..you start discussing and planning your family goals together.*
- ..you begin to openly tell her what the Lord is doing in your life, and what He is teaching/challenging you about.*

U nderstanding - *Don't try to fix her; just listen to her heart!*

- **The Church of Christ casts her burdens upon the Lord** (1 Pet 5:7). In a very similar way a wife will often need to place her burdens upon the one who represents Christ to her - the husband! However, when she shares with you husband, don't assume she is asking for you to solve her problem. She is merely reaching out to you for **UNDERSTANDING** through communicating her feelings.
A Lady wanted to marry four different men in her lifetime. She said each one of them would help her with the four things she needed most in life. First, she said she wanted to marry a banker. Second, a movie star. Next, a pastor. And finally, a funeral director. When asked why, she answered, "It's simple: One for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go!"
- **It has been said, that in marriage, the most powerful weapons you have are your ears.** Just listen to your wife, and she is much more likely to feel understood by you! (**Gen 21:12 - listen!!**)
The next time your wife comes to you with an issue, its a good

idea to simply ask her: "Do you want a solution to your problem, or do you simply want me to listen right now?"

- To **"just listen"** is usually not a husband's strong suit. He is better but to analyze, give answers, and "fix" the situation. This is why many a husband, who still hasn't grown in this area, doesn't consistently decode the messages his wife is sending when she comes to him with her problems.

- **Have you heard about the man with a nagging wife? "Talk, talk, talk, talk," he said to his friend. "That's all my wife ever does is talk, talk, talk." His friend responded, "Well what does she talk about?" He said, "I don't know..she doesn't say!"**

- But husbands, the simple truth is this: you really don't have to fix her problems, just listen and **UNDERSTAND** her heart! If a husband can grasp this, he'll take a giant step forward in showing his wife LOVE.

1Pet 3:7 NLT - *"In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together."*

- **Husband, your wife will feel your UNDERSTANDING when:**

..you don't try to "fix" her problems unless he specifically asks for a solution.

..you don't interrupt her when she's telling you how she feels.

..you seek to identify her feelings, and show empathy with her.

P **eacemaking** - *She wants you to say, "I'm sorry" and make peace!*

- For most wives, when a marital conflict exists, it affects the woman's entire being. The reason for this is that women have a God-given desire for **PEACE** and unity within their relationships. When this is ruptured by the presence of an argument, a breach, or a fight, her spirit can be crushed, and her heart can become deflated.

- For any husband who wants more peace in the home, and fewer ongoing arguments, the path to finding that peace is plain. He must learn to simply say 8 magic words:

"I'm sorry. I was wrong. Please forgive me."

A man bragged on his marriage once and said, "From the beginning of our marriage, my wife and I decided to what Scripture says, and never go to bed angry. It's getting hard though..we haven't been able to sleep in 3 weeks!"

Socrates once told his students, "By all means, get married. If you get a good wife, you'll be doubly blessed. If you get a bad wife, like me, you'll become a philosopher!"

- When a husband asks his wife to forgive her, to restore **PEACE** in their relationship, he is actually giving her the gift of love. He is essentially telling her: **"You are more important. And because you are more important, I want to have peace with you once again. I will swallow my pride; I will humble myself, and I will ask for your**

forgiveness to restore PEACE in our relationship! That's how much I love you. That's how much you mean to me!"

"Marriage is not so much about FINDING the right person, as it is about BEING the right person!" - Charles Shedd

• **Husband, your wife will feel at PEACE with you when:**

..you seek to resolve arguments quickly, and restore unity.

..you learn to apologize for making her feel unloved with your actions.

..you learn to admit your mistakes, and humbly ask for forgiveness.

Loyalty - She needs to know you're committed to her and your children!

- A man is very sensitive to being valued and respected, but the heart of a woman is also very sensitive, and at times even insecure, of being **LOVED**. Because of this sensitivity and occasional insecurity, she might say things like:

"Do you still love me?"

"Do you still think I'm attractive?"

"Do you want me...for me?"

"When I'm old and gray...will you still be with me?"

"A wife was sitting at the breakfast table with her husband, "What if something happened to me and I died first? Would you marry again?" He thought for a while then responded, "Yeah, I guess I would." Then she asked, "Well, would you bring your new wife to live in this house and have her sleep in our bed?" "Well, I hadn't thought about it, but I probably would," he said. She probed even further, "Would you let her use my golf clubs?" To which he replied, "No, she's left handed."

- With these remarks she is not trying to be disrespectful, or suggesting that you are **disloyal**. She is simply looking for reassurance. She simply longs to know the only thing that will ever separate you two is death itself. She simply wants to feel secure and safe, knowing that you are **LOYAL** to her and to your children.

• **Husband, your wife will sense your LOYALTY when:**

..you regularly call her and let her know your plans.

..you speak highly of her in front of your children and others.

..you don't look lustfully at other women.

..you don't say negative things about her appearance or looks.

..you keep your commitments and promises to her.

Esteem - She wants to know, that you still honor and cherish her!

- A wife also has a God-given desire to be valued, honored, and esteemed by her **husband**. This is a powerful way to communicate love to her. Just like a man needs respect, and to know that he is honored, in a similar way, a wife needs to know that she is valuable, precious, and one of kind in the eyes of her husband. She needs to know that her husband still cherishes her like he used to!

"A young girl asked her mother, "Mom, how can I keep my fiancé from spending so much money on me? He spoils me rotten!" The mother simply looked her square in the eye and said, "That's easy dear. That all stops when you marry him!"

- At times, because she has this need she might even mention some negative comments about herself, to hear you say just the opposite. Sometimes, the more negative she sounds, the more she is seeking her husbands positive love! She might say things like:

"No one appreciates me like that..."

"I feel invisible and unappreciated around here.."

"I remember when you used to tell me thank you.."

- **A wise husband will decode these words, understand what she is longing for,** and tell her how cherished, valued, and appreciated she is to him! Praise her for the amazing cooking, thank her for all her tireless labor for the family, and applaud her for her godliness and spiritual example! Tell her there is no-one on earth like her, that she is a priceless diamond, and beautiful flower, and a one-of-a-kind wife!

Tragically, some husbands have suddenly lost their wives, due to an accident or a tragedy. These men, who've unexpectedly had their wives taken, often admits in tears that they didn't cherish their brides enough. One broken widower stated: "I wish I sold have told her how much she meant to me. How could I live so long with a person, and not see the treasure that was right in front of my eyes?"

- **Husband, your wife will feel ESTEEMED by you when:**

..you regularly give her encouragement and praise.

..you are physically affectionate with her in public.

..you choose what she likes and prefers, over your choices.

..you let her know that you are proud of her and all she does.