

WHAT EVERY COUPLE THINKS THEY KNOW

WHAT EVERY COUPLE THINKS THEY KNOW, PART 2: WHAT MEN WANT

What is the biggest need of most men? Every woman *thinks they know* the answer to that question, but your answer would probably be wrong. Yet asking that question might be the key for women to get what they need and want most—unconditional love.

BIG IDEA: Men need respect more than getting their physical needs met.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Much of the content is found from Shaunti Feldhahn's book *For Women Only*. For a deeper dive, get it and her companion book *For Men Only*.

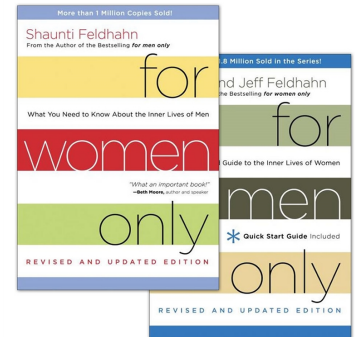
1. Which of these TV families reflects the way everyone gets along in your family: The Bradys? Cleavers? Waltons? Simpsons? Cosbys? Bundys?
2. How do you think most women talk about their man to their friends? To their families?
3. Relate an example of a time you conveyed disrespect to a man—even if you didn't mean to. How did he respond? Also, give an example of when you got it right.
4. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Ephesians 5:21-33.*

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:21-22, 25, 33 (NLT)

5. This section of Ephesians has a lot to do with family dynamics (wives 5:21-24; husbands 5:25-33; children 6:1-3; fathers 6:4). So why do you think Paul starts where he does in Ephesians 5:21?
6. Does the word submit have positive or negative connotations for today? Why? What do you think Paul meant by, 'Submit to one another' in verse 21?
7. Imagine a marriage without selfishness. What would that look like?
8. According to verse 33, what is the greatest need for women? The greatest need for men?
9. A man would rather feel **unloved** than **inadequate** and **disrespected**. A man would rather be by himself than to feel inadequate. You might hear that and think, "Well, that's men egos." Shaunti writes, "On the surface, it looks like an ego thing, but it really is a respect thing." DO you agree? Disagree? Why?
10. Chris said, "There is an easy barometer that will help you know that you have crossed the line of disrespect with men: Check for anger." Why do you think men resort to anger when they feel disrespected?

"In a relationship conflict, crying is often a woman's response to feeling unloved, and anger is often a man's response to feeling disrespected."



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11. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Philippians 2:3-8.*

Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble toward one another, always considering others better than yourselves. And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own. The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had: He always had the nature of God, but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God. Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had, and took the nature of a servant. He became like a human being and appeared in human likeness. He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death— his death on the cross.

Philippians 2:3-8 (NLT)

12. By reading these verses found in Philippians—reading between the lines—what was wrong with the church in Philippi?
13. How can almost every relationship be fixed by the principles found in Philippians 2:3-8? List some of the principles below:
14. How would things change if verses 3-8 marked your family life? Work life?

MOVING FORWARD

Respect means more to men than even affection. Three-quarters of men would rather feel alone and unloved than disrespected. Men need to be respected—in public and in private—in the areas of their judgment, abilities, communication, and assumptions.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Meditate on the following verses this week: Ephesians 5:21-33, Colossians 3:18-21, Philippians 2:1-11, Proverbs 14:1

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