



WHAT EVERY COUPLE THINKS THEY KNOW

WHAT EVERY COUPLE THINKS THEY KNOW, PART 3: WHAT WOMEN WANT

Think of the deals you've struck in your life. Your first car. Your first real job. Your first house. You saw what you wanted, did what you had to do to get it—and you came home with a done deal. No deal compares to winning a wife, though. You pursued her with all the courage, creativity, and resources you could muster. Then, one day, you closed the deal. Your wedding day was the day you proved your love to the world and to her. Your marriage feels like the most obviously closed deal in your whole life. Right? Well, not exactly. It just feels closed for you.

Your wife doesn't feel permanently loved once the marriage papers are signed. She may have a subconscious question about your love. She may know you love her, but there will be times when her feelings will need to be convinced and reassured. Sometimes over and over again."

BIG IDEA: Women want to feel that they are worthy of your pursuit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Tell of a time when you closed a deal. Maybe a time when you pursued something ambitiously and refused to take failure as an option. Was it a promotion or some other prize?
2. Kim said, "Guys, the deal is never closed when it comes to your wife. Her natural inclination will always be to feel unloved and insecure." Describe an instance when your wife needed to be reassured of your love but you missed the opportunity. Contrast the outcome of that scenario with a time you recognized her need and responded well.
3. What signals might your wife or girlfriend be sending that might indicate she's feeling insecure about your love? Play detective: What words or body language might communicate her need?
4. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Ephesians 5:25-33*

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. And we are members of his body. As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:25-33 (NLT)

5. How and why does Paul address husbands the way he does? Jesus' love led Him to die for us. What would it mean for a husband to live for his wife with this type of love?
6. In your own words, how would you express the goal of a Christian marriage (5:31)?
7. Kim said, "Women need to feel valued," and gave 3 ways in which you can value her. The first way was to *reassure her*.
8. Do you feel like the woman in your life should know that you love her, even if you don't tell her? If so, why do you feel that way?
9. Compare her need for reassurance of your love to men's needs to feel reassured by a boss that we're doing a good job. Does this comparison make her desire for reassurance seem more legitimate? What can / should we do as a result?

10. The second way women need to feel valued is to *pursue her*. What are some things you did to pursue her when you were dating? Share with the group.
11. Guys, have you stopped pursuing her? Remember, what was once won can be lost. What are some practical things you can do to start the pursuit again?
12. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Proverbs 31:10-12, 28-31.*

Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is more precious than rubies. Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her: "There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!" Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the LORD will be greatly praised. Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise.
Proverbs 31:10-12, 28-31 (NLT)

13. What is the value of a woman found in Proverbs 31? What does Solomon compare to her worth? What will a godly wife bring to her husband?
14. What should be the response of the husband and children to the godly woman in their life?
15. The last way women need to feel valued is to *talk with her*. Many times us as guys just give the details. But our wives long to hear the feelings behind those details. Why do you think she wants the feelings more than just the facts?

MOVING FORWARD

Conversation means listening to your wife. When she is talking to you, she doesn't want you to fix it—she wants you to listen. They don't need a solution. What they want from us is for us to understand how they're feeling about the problem.

Men, your wife wants you to focus on her feelings, not the problem. Most men filter out all of the emotion and listen for the facts. When we face a problem ourselves, we compartmentalize. We put our emotions over here in that box, focus on the facts in this box, and we become task oriented and solve the problem. We're busy filtering out our wife's feelings because we think they get in the way of solving the problem. Instead, we need to filter out the problem and focus on her feelings.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Meditate on the following verses this week: Proverbs 31:10-31, Ephesians 5:21-33, Genesis 29:1-30.

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