

HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES

Eph. 5:25-33

I. TWO MAJOR REASONS MARRIAGES FAIL

- A. Enter marriage with "storybook" expectations and limited training
- B. Lack of understanding about general differences between men and women

II. HOW TO LOVE YOUR WIFE

- A. As Christ loved the church (Presenting her whole and complete)
- B. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself
- C. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church

III. WIFE'S GREATEST NEED IS TO BE LOVED

- A. Three kinds of love
 - 1. Companionship - relationship based on physical attractions
 - 2. Passionate - kind of love that hungers for the other person to stimulate and satisfy our sexual urges
 - 3. Genuine love - selfless love--giving; no qualifications
- B. Ability to love in selfless way dependent upon level of maturity of love
 - 1. Immature love
 - a. Jealousy is caused by a fear of losing something or someone we value because it or they meet our needs
 - b. Envy springs from a desire to possess what someone else has. We imagine that if we gain what he or she has, then we'll be happy
 - c. Anger results from the inner turmoil and frustration we feel when we cannot control people or circumstances. We cannot have what we believe will make us happy or our goals are blocked
 - d. Loneliness results from a dependence on other people for our happiness
 - e. Fear results when we imagine or perceive that our needs or goals will not be met
 - 2. Developing a lasting mature love
 - a. Major block is failure to meet woman's needs from her viewpoint
 - b. Find out what your wife needs to feel fulfilled as a woman
 - c. Look for special ways to meet her needs
- C. Serious consequences of lack of love
 - 1. Woman not properly loved can develop serious physical ailments
 - 2. Improper love increases possibility of mental illness

3. Woman's emotional and physical existence dependent on romantic love received from husband
4. Husband's lack of love for wife can drastically affect children's emotional development
5. Disrespectful wife and rebellious children more likely found where man does not know how to lovingly support his family
6. By refusing to love wife as should, declaring that he is self-centered and unreliable
7. Son of unloving husband will probably learn wrong ways to treat future wife

IV. TO NOURISH AND CHERISH YOUR WIFE, MAKE A DEDICATED EFFORT TO MEET HER NEEDS

- A. Needs to be loved
 1. Treat her with gentle, tender care
 2. Tenderly held often, caressed, just to be near you
 3. Tell her you love her--often
 4. Hold her hand in public
 5. Put your arm around her in front of friends
- B. Needs to feel she is very valuable in your life
 1. Treated as equal; not inferior
 2. Value what she says; ask her opinion frequently
 3. Needs to know her opinion is so valuable you will discuss decisions with her, and act only after carefully evaluating her advice
- C. Needs to be praised
 1. Compliment her often
 2. Do not criticize her in front of others (even children)
 3. Do not belittle her
 4. Brag about her to others behind her back
- D. Needs to know you will protect her and defend her
 1. Must feel secure in your love; must be number one
 2. See what you can do to eliminate her fears
 3. Find out what makes her insecure
 4. Defend her to others
- E. Needs open and unobstructed communication
 1. Communicate with her; never close her out
 2. Give her your undivided attention
 3. Take time for the two of you to sit and talk calmly
 4. Share your thoughts and feelings with her
 5. Make sure she understands everything you are planning to do
- F. Needs understanding, consideration, thoughtfulness
 1. Do everything you can to understand her feelings
 2. Be thoughtful and respectful to her relatives
 3. Be considerate
 - a. Remember anniversaries, birthdays, special occasions

- b. Call her when you are going to be late
 - 4. Do special things for her
 - a. Buy her a special gift
 - b. Surprise her with card or flowers
 - c. Take her on dates now and then
 - d. help with household chores--do without being asked
- G. Needs for you to provide for her material needs--financial security
- H. Needs for you to be role model
 - 1. Needs you to be kind of man her son can follow and her daughter would want to marry
 - 2. Be the spiritual leader of your household