

What Every Wife Needs to Succeed – Part 2

Introduction:

1. Women often baffle men, so God exhorts men in **1 Peter 3:7** to dwell with their wives according to knowledge. In other words, seek to know your wife.
2. Your wife is very different from you. Besides the obvious physical differences, there are vast emotional differences as well.
 - When the Bible refers to her being the weaker vessel, this doesn't mean that she is some fragile little thing and you have to go easy on her. He is talking about something rare and delicately crafted.
 - Illustration of fine china - you don't throw it around like paper plates. You treat it carefully, not just because it's delicate, but because it is valuable. Your wife is the fine china that God has placed in your life as a gift.
3. Because she is a woman, she is very different from you as a man. She has different needs, a different perspective, a different way of dealing with the world, and sometimes, different interests. Women can really confound men at times.
4. Here is what I have found. Most men are not **unwilling** to meet their wives' needs; they are simply **unaware** of what those needs actually are. We are shooting in the dark when it comes to understanding our wives.
5. Tonight I would like to share with you four important terms worth remembering that can forever change your relationship with your wife. These terms represent four all-important needs that your wife has.
6. She has other needs of course, but these four will directly affect the nature and quality of your marriage. Guys, they are a key to a happy marriage, and they should be our core concerns.

Companionship

1. God has made women to be highly relational, and because of this she puts a high value on the quality of relationship she has with you.
 - Why are women the primary buyers of romantic novels and viewers of soap opera-type of shows? These things create a fantasy which conjure up all kinds of romantic images in which two people share an intimate relationship and love.
 - Men, have you ever watched a soap opera? It goes on and on, day after day, and it never ends. You just get to know each character deeper and deeper, and we think, "How stupid and corny can you get?"
2. But here is the lesson we learn. Our wives seek to experience life with their man in a deep, intimate, never-ending way. There is no particular goal in mind; they just want to cherish the experience of the relationship. To them, **being** is more important than **doing**. This mystifies most men.
3. Let's go back to **1 Peter 3:7** and notice that it says, "*Likewise, ye husbands **dwell with them...***" Your wife just wants to be **with you!**
4. Here is the way a man and a woman view the wedding ceremony:
 - Woman - she views it as the beginning of a never-ending relationship with a lot of deep sharing.
 - Man - he views it in terms of completing a goal. "We did it," and so after the ceremony and honeymoon is over, he's ready to move on to other things,

- especially his career. For a wife, this brings unexpected disappointment and heartache.
5. The more he focuses on interests outside the home, the more his wife hungers to have him back, to share in his experiences, to have him to be with. She wants to talk to him about things going on in his and her life, to enjoy the conversation of companionship.
 6. Illustration of going to mall and shopping:
 - She wants to go, not necessarily to buy something, but just to wander around the mall together, hand in hand, enjoying each other's company.
 - That is likely to drive him crazy! What is our attitude toward the mall, guys? We want to get in and get out and do it in record time. We want to check it off our list of chores and go on to the next thing on the list.
 7. Men, when we take time to be with our wife, we are paying her the supreme compliment. We are telling her how important she is to us. We are expressing our commitment to her. You are letting her know that you enjoy **her** and enjoy being **with** her. Your wife yearns for that.
 8. It is what she expected when you placed that ring on her finger. She took your last name, and that in itself says a great deal about what she expects. More than anything else, she expects to have you - your presence, your interest, your availability.
 9. She wants and needs your companionship. That is why Peter says to husbands, "*Ye husbands dwell with them according to knowledge...*"
 - One side-note: we can dwell physically in the same house with our wives and still not provide companionship. Physical closeness does not equal emotional closeness.

Security

1. A woman needs the security of a man. She needs to know he can and will provide for her.
2. Even if the woman works outside the home, she needs to know that even if she chose not to work, that she would be provided and cared for. Beyond any shadow of a doubt, she knows her husband is looking out for her.
3. Men, we need to consider what God's Word has commanded us in **Ephesians 5:25-29**.
 - Just as you see to it that your body is cared for, you should care for your wife and see that she is cared for. If our body hurts, we try to help it and relieve it, or if it stinks, we shower and clean it, etc.
 - As Christ sacrificed Himself for our well-being, we should be willing to sacrifice ourselves for our wife and her well being.
4. At this point, maybe you should ask yourselves some questions: "Have you made your marriage financially sound (not wealthy or worth millions)? Does it offer real security for your wife? Can she trust you? Are your finances under control? Men, biblically, these things are **our** responsibility. **1 Timothy 5:8**
5. I realize that some women may have been spoiled, born into a rich home and they are accustomed to luxury, and the husband can never make her happy. This is a spiritual problem on her part that she needs to deal with. This is the sin of

covetousness. But most women are not this way. They simply want to know that their man will take care of them and their basic needs.

6. To be fair, sometimes the woman works outside the home because both she and her husband have a covetous spirit. They have set a standard of living far higher than they need to be happy. If they would reduce their standard of living to a point of comfort, many could avoid husbands working long hours and wives pressured to earn a paycheck.
7. The devil wants you to believe that the more stuff you have, the happier you will be. Is this true or false? The more things you **have**, the more complicated life gets - trying to take care of them, keep them working, and pay for them.
8. Many times you would be happier if you would simplify your life, live within your means, and frame your budget around the husband's income.
9. Here is the Bible principle: The husband should love and take care of his wife just as he would his own body.

Significance

1. Why is this? Because so much of what she does is hidden from view. Her most valuable contributions are primarily relational. She's a nurturer, a friend, a soul-worker. These contributions can't be measured quantitatively, nor will she get paid for them.
2. There is only one person who can really appreciate her unique contributions and honor her accordingly - guess who? Her husband!
3. This is why **1 Peter 3:7** says that husbands should give honor unto the wife. If you don't praise her, who will? Who else knows and values what your wife does during the day?
 - The children don't fully perceive it and certainly aren't inclined to thank her for it.
 - The neighbors don't know.
 - Your employer couldn't care less (unless it impacts your performance at work).
 - If she holds a job, her employer only cares about her performance at work.
 - Society pays little attention to her contributions in the home.
4. So who is there to praise and compliment her for her value and importance as a wife and mother? No one except you! You are the only one.
5. Here is the tragedy: over the last 40 years, so many women have felt unappreciated and insignificant in serving their families that they have given up on it. "It's not worth it," they are saying, so they are going other places in a search of significance.
6. Men, we are to give honor unto our wives. **Proverbs 31:28** says about the virtuous woman, "Her husband *'praiseth her'*." Do you make your wife feel significant and that her life counts? There is no way we can do this if we aren't affirming her on a daily basis.
7. Let me say this to the ladies here tonight. Ladies - you are significant in Christ. Satan will try to convince you otherwise. Satan wants you to look for significance in your work, your relationships, your outward appearance, your education, your visible accomplishments, but these are satanic deceptions.
 - You will end up feeling inferior and worthless. Your significance comes from your position in Christ.

Emotional Responsiveness

1. Husbands, according to God's Word we are to nourish and cherish our wives.
Ephesians 5:29
 - "Nourish" - to feed
 - "Cherish" - to soften or warm with body heat (like a mother bird on a nest)
2. In other words, we are to express tenderness to our wife. Guys, God didn't call us to impress our wives with our masculinity. He called us to be emotionally sensitive to her and her needs.
3. We miss the boat on this a lot. For instance, if Deniece is down or upset, my natural response is to try to solve her problems. Ever try this?
4. What does she say? "You just don't understand." And our wives are right. We don't understand. Most of the time, they don't want us to solve anything, they just want us to listen and be sensitive and caring.
5. You haven't solved her problem, but you've done the right thing. How revolutionary when a husband says, "Tell me about it, Honey." instead of "What you need is more sleep." or "If you would just do this, this, and this, it would solve the problem."
6. Some guys are always emotionally upsetting their wives, and in some sick way, they get a kick out of it. When she hurts, you're supposed to hurt. We are to nourish and cherish our wives.