

MEETING YOUR WIFE'S BASIC NEEDS

Lesson # 5

Willard Harley, Jr. in the book His Needs Her Needs: Building An Affair-proof Marriage, describes five basic needs in a woman's life.ⁱ Meeting these needs will make your wife feel special. They are: **affection, conversation, honesty and openness, financial support and family commitment.** When a man treats his wife as a special person, he can transform her. Yet giving special attention to your wife takes a concentrated effort.

Ephesians 5:22-33

22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church- 30 for we are members of his body. 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:25 states that the husband is to love his wife the way Christ loves the church. This is sacrificial love. Verse 27 speaks of how Christ's sacrificial love converts the church to a beautiful, unblemished, and holy body. Sacrificial love can also do the same in a marriage. In verses 28 and 33, the husband is commanded to love his wife as he loves himself. This love seeks the good of the wife instead of self-centered gain. The word for love used in Ephesians 5 is the Greek word *agape*. This love is "unconditional, unchanging, inexhaustible, generous beyond measure, and most wonderfully kind."ⁱⁱ Ed Wheat, in Love Life for Every Married Couple writes, "Even in the best of marriages, unlovable traits show up in both partners. And in every marriage, sooner or later, a need arises that can be met only by unconditional love."ⁱⁱⁱ

For icing on the cake, most women also enjoy gifts. This is the case with the woman in Song of Songs.

Song of Songs 1:10-11--*Your cheeks are beautiful with earrings, your neck with strings of jewels. We will make you earrings of gold, studded with silver.*

The woman has beautiful jewelry, but the man promises to give her even finer jewelry in the days to come. This speaks of the man's plan to continue to court his wife even after they are committed to each other. He wants to keep giving her gifts even after marriage.

It seems that gift-giving is a part of almost every culture. In Central America the Mayans and Aztecs exchanged gifts as part of their love/marriage customs. The same can be said of the tribal people of Melanesia and Polynesia, the Eskimos, and the aboriginal Ainus of Japan.^{iv} Whatever the culture, the heart of love is giving.

ⁱWillard F. Harley, Jr., His Needs Her Needs: Building An Affair-proof Marriage (Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1994 edition), Contents.

ⁱⁱEd Wheat, Love Life for Every Married Couple (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1980), 119.

ⁱⁱⁱIbid.

^{iv}Gary Chapman, The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate (Chicago: Northfield Publishing, 1995), 73.