

# Marriages that Work

## Her Needs in the Practice of Marriage

Sunday, May 30, 2010

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### Message Truth:

As Christians, we need to follow God's design for our marriages. God is sovereign over all of the universe. He should be sovereign, therefore, in our homes, also. Do you and your spouse live and relate to one another in ways that would please God? Do you understand God's role for you in your family? Our hearts and homes should reflect His will. Marriages which operate according to God's purposes will bring joy, fulfillment, peace and contentment to you. Children raised in genuine Christian homes will increasingly experience an advantage in society and in their personal relationships over their counterparts who are reared in dysfunctional families, which according to the census are on the increase. Today we will explore her needs in the practice of marriage.

## The Practice of Marriage

### The 5 Basic Needs of a Woman<sup>1</sup>

#### ● Her need for a\_\_\_\_\_.

Women need their husbands to show them affection daily. A hug, touch, or kiss tells her that she is loved and highly valued.

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<sup>1</sup>William F. Harley, Jr. *His Needs Her Needs: Building an Affair-proof Marriage*. (Grand Rapids: Fleming H Revell, 1994)

## Hugging Your Wife

It's the perfect cure for what ails you. No movable parts, no batteries to wear out, no periodic check ups, low energy consumption, high energy yield, inflation proof, non-taxable, non-polluting, and, of course, fully returnable. Hugging is healthy. It relieves tension, combats depression, reduces stress, and improves blood circulation. It's invigorating, it's rejuvenating, it elevates self-esteem, it generates good will, it has no unpleasant side effects. It is nothing less than a miracle drug. *-Source unknown*

#### ● Her need for c\_\_\_\_\_.

Techniques for making deposits through conversation:

- 1) Developing interest in each other's favorite topics.
- 2) Giving each other equal time to talk.
- 3) Using conversation to inform, investigate, and understand each other.
- 4) Giving her your undivided attention. (*This means that you turn the T.V. off*)

Avoid these all-too-common withdrawals:

- 1) Using conversation to punish each other.
- 2) Trying to force agreement to one's way of thinking.
- 3) Dwelling on mistakes of the past or present.

#### ● Her need for h\_\_\_\_\_ and o\_\_\_\_\_.

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Reveal to your spouse as much information about yourself as you know; your thoughts, feelings, habits, likes, dislikes, personal history, daily activities, and plans for the future.

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1) **E** \_\_\_\_\_ **Honesty:** Reveal your emotional reactions, both positive and negative, to the events of your life, particularly to your spouse's behavior.

2) **H** \_\_\_\_\_ **Honesty:** Reveal information about your personal history, particularly events that demonstrate personal weaknesses or failures.

3) **C** \_\_\_\_\_ **Honesty:** Reveal information about the events of your day. Provide your spouse with a calendar of your activities, with special emphasis on those that may affect your spouse.

4) **F** \_\_\_\_\_ **Honesty:** Reveal your thoughts and plans regarding future activities and objectives.

5) **C** \_\_\_\_\_ **Honesty:** Do not leave your spouse with a false impression about your thoughts, feelings, habits, likes, dislikes, personal history, daily activities, or plans for the future. Do not deliberately keep personal information from your spouse.

● **Her need for f** \_\_\_\_\_ **s** \_\_\_\_\_.

If you ask, "Would you marry someone who would expect to be supported financially, who prefers doing something that didn't earn an income, such as raising his or her own children, or volunteering his or her services?" today, most men would say "yes" and most women would say "no."

● **Her need for f** \_\_\_\_\_ **c** \_\_\_\_\_.

Women want their husbands to play a role in the moral and educational development of their children.

- Share meals together as a family
- Take walks and/or bike rides
- Go to church together
- Help children with homework
- Read to your children before bedtime
- Have family meetings
- Go to sporting events
- Play games together
- Do family projects

### The Things Women Want:

1. Don't ever lie to us; we always find out.
2. If you're in a bad mood, we're going to assume it's our fault. So, tell us what's bothering you.
3. Quit complaining about your boss. Find another job.
4. Sunday is usually the only day we can relax. Be flexible about the all-day sports rule.
5. Buy yourself some decent clothes.
6. Pay attention. We like to give clues. "Susie and Bob tried a great new restaurant" means "Why don't you ever take us anywhere nice?"
7. Yes, it's true. Sometimes we like to call up and talk about nothing. Get used to it.
8. We are self-conscious by nature; we can't help it.
9. The kissing must never stop.
10. If you ask us what's wrong and we say nothing, ask us again. And this time, look sincere.
11. When we say something, it's necessary for you to respond. At the very minimum, nod your head.
12. Real men run dishwashers and dust.
13. If you only knew how much a tender word, a thoughtful act, an unexpected gift means to us, you would do it, and your life would improve exponentially.
14. When no one's home, stand in front of a mirror and practice this until you can say it in public, "I was wrong."
15. After you've mastered that, work on, "I'm sorry."

— Cheryl Lavin, "The Things Women Want," Chicago Tribune (5-7-00)