

what a Woman Wants



What a Woman Wants—Part One

Ephesians 5:28-29

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Introduction: In May of 2003 I had this idea for a Mother's Day message and conducted a survey among the women at MFA asking them what they desired most from their spouse and children. The women who participated in the survey listed ten things: Show Love, Show Appreciation; Be godly; Show Respect; Give Praise. Acceptance, Peace, Provision, A Listening Ear, Understanding.

Today we will talk about five of the ten things but before that let me give some advice and mention some gifts you should never buy your wife for Mother's Day. Some men who were not aware of this list have experienced some frigid temperatures in their homes at times because of their poor present decisions.

1. Don't buy anything that plugs in. Anything that requires electricity is seen as utilitarian (practical, useful, down to earth). Stay away from anything that has to do with appliances or household goods. You may think nothing says, "I love you" more than a new set of pots and pans, an ironing board, or vacuum cleaner—but as a general rule stay away from practical gifts. Avoid all things useful. The new silver polish advertised to save hundreds of hours is not going to win you any brownie points. If it's useful, it's not a gift, and this is a time you want to make your partner feel special and loved. Early in our marriage Nancy was always talking about how she needed some pot scrubbing tools. So I went and bought her a whole bunch of scourers, wash cloths and stuff like that for some special occasion. I think that happened right before our first separation.

2. Don't buy clothing that involves sizes. The chances are one in seven thousand that you will get her size right, and your wife will be offended with the 6999 times you got it wrong. "Do I look like a size 16?" she'll say. Too small a size doesn't cut it either: "I haven't worn a size 8 in 20 years!"

3. Don't buy anything that involves weight loss or self-improvement. Don't ever go there! No matter how you look at it; unless she has specifically asked for it, it's not going to be appreciated. She'll perceive a six-month membership to a diet center as a suggestion that's she's overweight. Do not buy your partner an anti-ageing facial or a cellulite busting body scrub.

4. Don't buy jewelry. The jewelry she wants, you can't afford. And the jewelry you can afford, she doesn't want.

5. And, guys, do not fall into the traditional trap of buying her frilly underwear. Your idea of the kind your wife should wear and what she actually wears are light years apart.

6. Finally, don't spend too much. "How do you think we're going to afford that?" she'll ask. But don't spend too little. She won't say anything, but she'll think, "Is that all I'm worth?"

7. Don't buy things that are really for you. Things like golf clubs, football season tickets, or the new Expendables DVD. Your partner may support or tolerate your passion for these things, but please don't get this confused with a genuine interest. Remember your passion may not be hers, so it's best to buy something that you know she is truly into.

- I. Show Love** (*Eph. 5:25-29 NIV* *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ... husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church.*)
- A. Rainer Maria Rilke:** *This is the miracle that happens every time to those who really love; the more they give the more they possess.*
- 1. The Greatest Need** (*Eph. 5:28* *love your wife as your own body*)
- a. *Pastor Dan:* My favorite Scripture is *Eph. 5:22*, "Wives submit yourself to your husband as unto the Lord." When I was younger I used to think Paul was talking about authority but I've learned from the context of the Scripture that he is addressing the issue of responsibility more than the issue of authority in the home and marriage relationship.
 - b. *Charles Galloway:* The need to love and be loved is the simplest of all human wants. People need love like they need the sun and the rain. They perish without it. Humanities basic longing is to be the object of love and to be able to give love. No other need is quite so significant to the human nature.
 - c.
 - d. *Crandall Miller:* Love is act of the will. Love is that which I do that causes a person to sense honor and respect.
 - e. *Pastor Dan:* We are commanded to show love to the ones we love and even show love to our enemies. How do you do that? You show love to the ones you love the same way you show love to those who are your enemies. Three simple steps (*Matt. 5:44* Love your enemies): 1) Bless those who curse you 2) Do good to those who hate you 3) Pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.
 - f. *C.S. Lewis:* The emphasis (in relationships) is not on feeling an emotion of love but on acting in love. It would be quite wrong to think that the way to become "loving" is to sit trying to manufacture affectionate feelings. The rule for us all is perfectly simple. Do not waste time bothering whether you "love" your neighbor [or wife or mother]; act as if you did. As soon as we do this, we learn one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love them. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less.
 - g. The following are Ways that Wives and Mothers **expressed how best to express your love for them:** Help around the house; Tell me you love me; Spend time with the family; Give hugs; Give kisses; Take them out on a weekly date.
 - h. *Hannah Moore:* Love never reasons, but profusely gives; it gives like a thoughtless prodigal its all, and then trembles lest it has done too little.

II. Show Appreciation

A. *William James: The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated.*

1. All Human beings hunger for appreciation (David Dunn)

- a. *John F. Kennedy:* As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.
- b. *Mother Teresa:* There is more hunger for love and appreciation in this world than for bread.
- c. *David Dunn; Giving Yourself Away:* When some people express appreciation it seems to have a special quality which I have come to think of as *depth*. At first I thought depth was a matter of sincerity or warmth. But the more I have studied the most successful appreciators, the surer I was that neither of these qualities nor both of them together, fully explained depth. And then, one day, I saw clearly what it was: their appreciation was always *specific*. They did not say merely, "I enjoyed your concert." They said, "I enjoyed every number on your program, but particularly the Chopin group." They did not merely say, "I liked your book ever so much." They said, "Your book was so exciting that I couldn't lay it down until I'd finished it, well after midnight. They did not say merely, "This pie is delicious." They said, "This is a delicious pie—the crust is so flaky." They did not merely say, "Thank you for the flowers you sent me." They said, "The flowers you sent me blended in so perfectly with my table decorations that several of my guests commented on it." While general statements of pleasure or appreciation may cover the etiquette of the situation, they fall far short of the opportunity to give pleasure. They are lacking in depth of thought; they reveal no discrimination. After all, if we appreciate something, it is usually for a specific reason. If we train ourselves to analyze the reason, we have the basis for appreciation for-in-depth.

III. Be a Godly (husband, son, daughter) (*Col. 2:6-9 NLT* As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it^{a1} with thanksgiving. ⁸ Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power

A. *A lady from our survey: I want a godly man who puts Jesus first before everything.*

1. A Godly man

- a. *2 Pet. 2:1-3 NLT* So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. ² Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, ³ now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness
- b. *Col. 3:1-3* if then you have been raised with Christ ...
- c. *Charles H. Spurgeon:* In the Cathedral of St. Mark in Venice—a marvelous building, lustrous with an Oriental splendor far beyond description—there are pillars said to have been brought from Solomon's Temple. These are of alabaster, a substance firm and durable as granite, and yet transparent, so that the light glows through them. They are an emblem of what all true pillars of the church should be—firm in their faith and transparent in their character; people of simple mold, ignorant of tortuous and deceptive ways, and yet people of strong will, not readily led aside or bent from uprightness.

IV. Show Respect (*Phil. 2:3-5 NLT Do nothing through selfish ambition or vain conceit. But in humility consider others as better than yourself. Let each of you look not only to your own interests but also to the interests of others.*)

A. Pastor Dan: *Respect is the husband making those things which are important to his wife important to him; and respect is the wife making those things which are important to her husband important to her.*

1. **Respect** (*Ro. 12:10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves*)
 - a. *Pastor Dan:* Respect is the glue holding lasting relationships together
 - b. The first thing lost in a failing relationship is respect.
 - c. **Gal. 5:15** If you bite and devour one another...
 - d. *Source Unknown:* The Greek word for honor carried a literal meaning of something heavy or weighty such as gold, for it was heavy and valuable. They also associated dishonor with the steam coming off of boiling water or the clouding of a mirror on a cold day because it was the lightest and most insignificant thing they could think of.
 - e. **Matthew 7:12** Do to others what you have them do to you.
 - f. *Author Unknown:* If you desire to lose weight or value with your partner or friend put them on a starvation diet of praise and eat give them three good portions of daily criticism
 - g. *Author Unknown:* Without respect, love cannot go far or rise high: it is an angel with but one wing.

IV. Praise (*1 Pet. 3:7 NLT In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.*)

A. Dale Carnegie; How to Win Friends and Influence People: *Criticism is dangerous, because it wounds our sense of self worth and arouses resentment—sharp criticisms, rebukes almost always end in futility. Let us realize that criticisms are like homing pigeons. They always return home.*

1. **Praises from famous people for their mothers**
 - a. *Abraham Lincoln:* All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother. I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life.
 - b. *George Washington; 1732-1799:* My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her.
 - c. *Washington Irving; 1783-1859:* A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials, heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine, desert when troubles thicken around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts.

- d. *Ben Franklin*: As we must account for every idle remark, so we must account for every idle silence.
- g. The secret of *Benjamin Franklin's* success as an Ambassador to France: I will speak ill of no man...and speak all the good I know of everybody.
- h. *Dale Carnegie*: Any fool can criticize , condemn, and complain—and most fools do. But it take character and self-control to be understanding and forgiving.
- i. *Romans 13:7* ... give honor to whom honor is due.

Dr. Anthony Campolo: I challenge those who come to me for marriage counseling this way: "If you do what I tell you to do for an entire month, I can promise you that by the end of the month, you will be in love with your mate. Are you willing to give it a try?" When couples accept my challenge, the results are invariably successful. My prescription for creating love is simple: do ten things each day that you would do if you really were in love. I know that if people do loving things, it will not be long before they experience the feelings that are often identified as being in love. Love is not those feelings. Love is what one wills to do to make the other person happy and fulfilled. Often, we don't realize that what a person does influences what he feels.