

Man's Greatest Gift to His Wife: Himself!

God's Word to Husbands

Ephesians 5:25 *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for her."*

Ephesians 5:28 *"So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself."*

Colossians 3:19 *"Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them."*

How Do You Give Yourself to Your Wife?

1. Love

a. Time

- Learn to "waste time" with your wife—make her # 1.
- Go for walks; cook dinner together.
- Stroll through stores (antiques, specialty shops, etc.).
- Go out on dates.
- Ask your wife what *she* likes to do!

b. Attention

- Set your mind on your wife.
- Focus on her, not on work, family, friends, hobbies, etc.
- Turn off the cell phones, pagers, computer, television.
- Forego fishing, golf, hunting, bowling, sports leagues, etc.

2. Security

- a. Spiritually
 - Be a man of the Word—spend personal devotional time with God.
 - Be a man of prayer—pray with your wife, children, others.
 - Be a man of leadership—lead your family to God.
 - Be a man of humility—admit when you are wrong.
 - Be a man of sacrifice—put others first.
- b. Emotionally
 - Demonstrate your love—learn her “love language.”
 - Affirm your love—“I will never divorce you!”
 - Proclaim your love—publicly, to your children and others.

c. Physically

- Make home a safe haven (lock doors, run interference).
- Protect her from excessive busyness.
- Keep children and others from taking advantage of her.

d. Financially

Be the provider—work, set the budget, be responsible.

3. Communication (Proverbs 10:11; 12:18; 15:1; 16:23-24)

The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers claims the # 1 cause of failed marriages is a *lack of communication*.

Keys to Good Communication

- a. Seek to understand, not to be understood.
- b. Realize that you may not know what you think you know.
- c. Don't interrupt.
- d. Pay attention to non-verbal communication.
- e. Disagree without being disagreeable.
- f. Pray for each other and *with* each other.
- g. When you're wrong, admit it.
- h. When you're right, keep quiet.
- i. Yield your rights.
- j. Speak the truth in love.

4. Understanding (Colossians 3:12-13)

- a. Compassion
- b. Kindness
- c. Patience
- d. Burden-bearing
- e. Forgiveness

Homework

Men, get up early tomorrow and *write a love note* to your wife.