

Help for Husbands Course

LESSON #5 IN REVIEW

Romance and Social Needs

1. Husbands need to be romantic toward their wives (Song of Solomon 1:1-4; 3:1-5; and Deuteronomy 24:5)

When men think of romance they think of physical intimacy. Not so with women. They think of:

- flowers
- walks on the beach
- potpourri
- a foot rub
- an unexpected gift
- candlelight dinners
- new throw pillows
- an unexpected embrace
- songs sung to her
- chocolate
- candles
- nice table settings
- a surprise noon date
- bike rides in the park
- nice restaurants
- holding hands
- terms of endearment
- a surprise phone call from work, etc.
- love notes in the mail
- love notes around the house
- going out for ice cream
- sweet nothings whispered in her ear
- sunsets
- soft music
- hugging in the town gazebo
- a take-out dinner brought home

Perhaps some of these won't do anything for your wife, but most will. These should not just be done around Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, or your Anniversary, but spontaneously all year long.

One poll of women showed that sexuality ranked #14 out of 20 in regards to favorite things they liked to do with their husbands - right after gardening (#13)! For men it was #1.

Men and women are different. A wise man will recognize this and live with his wife and this knowledge (1 Peter 3:7).

She does also have intimate needs. Study 1 Corinthians 7:1-5. A couple should strive for mutual satisfaction in this area, though the needs are so different. If mutual satisfaction is not met in the marriage, it will sow seeds of frustration, and not fulfillment as God planned. This frustration sometimes sows the seeds of anger, resentment and bitterness toward each other. Have tender love and communication in this area. Cooperate with each other's romantic and physical needs.

Abstain from all pornography and appearance of evil, so as not to feed the flesh. Be spiritual not carnal. Your wife does not have to do anything illegal, immoral, or unseemly for you.

Do not be romantic as a means to an end. Just be romantic because you love her and want her to be happy.

2. Husbands must remember a wife has social needs to.

In a Christian home, this need is met by fellowship and involvement in the church (Acts 2:42).

A man is out in the world working many days each week. He is around people all the time. Often a wife is at home with little children. She has a need to talk to someone her age. The husband should be there to listen to her each day and hone his communication skills. The key to communicating is not just listening to your mate but hearing what she is saying and acting upon it.

A husband should also steer her to have fellowship with some good women at church. (Caution: some women at church are not good!) Let her have liberty to establish good friendships with spiritually-minded sisters in Christ.

If we do not provide a good atmosphere for meeting her need for socialization, she may end up like the sorry case in 1 Timothy 5:13-15.

The best socialization is with you, her husband. Second best is with Christian women at church. The worst is in the world.