

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 5:25-33.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Midnight. Living room. Single light. Man alone. Head buried in his hands. Wife in bedroom. Lights out. In bed. Crying. The man is asking himself, "What does she want from me?"
2. God teaches us what a wife wants from her husband. He knows. He made wives.
3. This morning let's look at what wives want and then make some very practical applications to our lives.

DISCUSSION: Wives want, among other things, ...

1. **Devotion.** *Agape* love. Ephesians 5:25. Devotion, not to just staying married, but to the marriage itself.
2. **Affection.** Ephesians 5:28-29.
3. **Protection.** 1 Peter 3:7A. From threats physical, financial, emotional, spiritual, etc.
4. **Intimacy.** Song of Solomon 5:16, "This is my beloved and this is my friend;" John 15:15B, "I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you;" Song of Solomon 1:7A, 15-16A; 8:10B.
5. **Leadership.** 1 Peter 3:1-4, 5-6.
6. **Respect.** Genesis 2:18, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him;" 1 Corinthians 11:8-9.
7. **Help.** 1 Corinthians 7:33; Colossians 3:19, "Do not be harsh with them" (ESV).
8. **Appreciation.** Proverbs 31:10-12, 28-31. "Much of the fuel we all run on is appreciation" (Gordon MacDonald, When Men Think Private Thoughts).
9. **Fun.** Song of Solomon 7:11-12. "Sometimes couples become so caught up in their hectic schedules that they don't take time to get away together. Jobs, housework, the children and church activities are important. But they needn't get in the way of your marriage. It's said the biggest problem in marriages is not money, sex or incompatibility. It's neglect. God intends marriage partners to be united with one another. Take time to be together" (Ehlke 1988, p. 207).
10. **Shepherding.** 1 Peter 3:7.



APPLICATIONS:

1. **A husband can and must understand his wife.** 1 Peter 3:7. Why is "first love" so wonderful? Because there is devotion and the rest naturally follows. Why do things change? Revelation 2:4-5. We may shift from devotion to serving to devotion to being served. It's more likely that the latter has always been our type of devotion. For a time, it can produce results similar to the former, but only for a time. For marriages to succeed, a husband and a wife must both transition from the latter to the former.
2. **We must put theory into practice.** Leo Tolstoy, "The vocation of every man and woman is to serve other people." Mrs. Leo Tolstoy, "There was little genuine warmth about him; his kindness does not come from the heart, but merely from his principles. His biographers will tell of how he helped the laborers carry buckets of water, but no one will ever know that he never have his wife a rest and never – in all these thirty-two years – gave his child a drink of water or spent five minutes by his bedside to give me a chance to rest a little from all my labors." Luke 8:14-15; James 1:21-25.
3. **A husband needs the same things from his wife that his wife needs from him.**
 - A. *Devotion.* Eph. 5:22-24. Protection – male ego. *Respect.* "Respect to men is what romance is to women."
Appreciation.
 - B. *Leadership? Shepherding?* Absolutely! No, not legal authority, but moral authority. 1 Peter 3:1-4.
4. **All relationships need what marriage relationships need.** Relationships with God; kin; brethren; shepherds/flock; friends; etc.
5. **Relationships are the foundation for abundant living.** Discuss peace.
6. **We must give what we want to receive.** Luke 6:31.
7. **Giving what we want to receive is the most likely way of getting it.** Luke 6:38. Don't give up!

CONCLUSION:

1. What *wives* want? What EVERYONE wants!
2. 12:30 p.m. Living room. Single light. Man alone. "I know what she wants, better yet, what she needs, and I didn't give it to her. No, she's not without fault, but I need to focus on me." Gets up. Turns out the light. Walks in darkness towards their bedroom. Halfway there he runs into his wife. Scared. Laughter. At once, "I'm sorry." They go to bed together. They talk things out. They go to sleep in each other's arms. Tomorrow will find their relationship better than ever before.