

# WHAT MEN WISH WOMEN KNEW

Ps. Benson Xavier (BX) – 6 April 2014 – Finders Keepers

SERMON NOTES



## What Men Wish Women Knew

Good morning Mavuno Kampala, I am so happy to be here and I've been very encouraged to hear what God is doing in this community. I celebrate what your leaders are doing - both leaders on staff and volunteers. I have had the privilege of interacting with a few of you so I will share a little about who I am for the benefit of many who don't me. My name is BX (stands for Benson Xavier). I am one of the many pastors who serve with Mavuno church. I am married to one wife. Her name is Becky. In December we will be celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in marriage. God has been good to us in many ways. He has blessed us with one son who is now 8 months. I hope that in my next visit they will accompany me.

Today we want to do an expose on 'What Men Wish Women Knew'. This will be a forum where we can correct some mistakes that women make in relationships. Before we delve into it let me explain why we should do this in church and not leave it all to Oprah. Please turn with me to **Titus 2:1-15**:

*You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*

*Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.*

*For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.*

Helping the different genders understand each other and conduct themselves properly is part and parcel of teaching good doctrine. Scripture tells us that we need to have healthy relationships as we wait Christ's return. When men and women understand each other, it makes healthy relationships among us possible. God desires that we will have healthy, mentoring relationships within the church. Through these mentoring relationships we can learn how to conduct ourselves in a manner that honors God. Without these mentoring relationships people drift. They lack models and teachers to direct them.

What a crucial element in a society such as this! Uganda has had entire generations growing up

without men to train and give direction. One consequence is that we have a society where men don't know how to treat their wives, women who don't know how to treat their husbands, and parents who don't know what to do with their children. Finders Keepers has been helping us understand how we can partner with God as He restores our broken relationships. I pray that this knowledge will make us not just better at romantic relationships but also help us relate better as brothers and sisters, as fathers and mothers, as uncles and aunties, and as God's Community on the earth!

As a church we need to model healthy relationships to the world. Our text says that relationships in the church must be of such good quality 'so that no one will malign the word of God'. The church needs to show that there can be happy marriages, that courting couples can abstain from premarital sex, that men can give their love to one woman and be satisfied, and that women don't have to carry themselves as sex objects in order to hook a rich man.

Uganda is longing for relationships that work. People want solutions but they don't know where to turn to. Many have no option but to turn to SANYU FM and to SENGAs. God's Word reminds us that the church is where they need to look to. **Romans 8:19-20** tells that society is eagerly waiting for God's children to rise and liberate it because as it is, society is frustrated for nothing has been able to free it from decay and bondage. The church should be the source of direction for those who are drifting and purposeless. It should be the source of power for those who are oppressed by witchcraft. It should be the source of dignity and affirmation for those who are miserable and despised.

So let us see these things that men wish women knew:

Here is a **caveat!** Ladies, please understand that this reality from men's perspective. Force yourself not to be defensive. Make it your goal to listen and understand. I even challenge you to give what I will say a try and see what God does. Some of what we discuss will apply specifically in marriage while some will apply more for those not yet married.

### **#1 Men need respect**

A man needs respect – he doesn't want it. A man interprets respect as love. When a woman respects her man, he knows she loves him. Men would rather feel unloved than inadequate and disrespected. Husbands need to know that their wives respect them both privately and publicly. Men tend to be pretty insecure about failing; they have a constant fear that they are not cutting it both at home and in relationships. That's why men dread the words, 'we need to talk!' When a husband is angry with his wife, there is a good likelihood that he is feeling his wife did something that he considers disrespectful and humiliating.

**Ephesians 5** does not tell the woman to love the man but to submit to him. When a wife submits, her husband sees respect. God was not foolish when he put it there. I understand that some of what I will say about respect has been misused and exploited. However, there is no other way to a happy marriage.

May be you are wondering how respect looks like? Women, here is how you respect your man?

*To Respect means to speak highly of:*

What you say to your man and how you say it tells him whether you respect him or not. Speak positively about your man to the children, sisters, and friends, whether he is present or not. Don't rebuke, criticize, put him down or speak disparagingly about him in public.

Constant criticism never inspired anyone to greater love. Men are deeply hurt by criticism. When a man's efforts to please his woman are constantly met by criticism, he gets frustrated and it breaks his ego. Similarly, nagging doesn't inspire a man to change. When you nag him, he feels like you're treating him like one of the children! Some of you ladies are blessed to be earning more than your men and that has turned into the lords of the relationship. You nag and criticize

your man just because you bring home a bigger piece of bacon.

Comparing him with other men will not encourage him to be a better man. Do not compare his judgment with those of your relatives or neighbors. I know he has made some bad calls, just as you're brother had indicated but respect his judgment nonetheless. Some men feel like they are spoken highly of – their opinions and decisions are actively valued – everywhere else except at home.

*To Respect means to hold in high regard:*

Your husband is your priority. Your husband needs to see and know that you consider him most important man in your life. You need to demonstrate that he is more important than your dad, brother, uncle, boss, gay friend, even your pastor. Take care of him first. Many wives rush to take care of other things and get home with no energy to hold a conversation with their husbands. Ladies, I know that some of you love God and are totally sold out. Hear this; your husband should come before the prayer meeting in your list of priorities. Jesus said I will build my church and the powers of darkness will not prevail against it. Go take care of your husband, Jesus will not let the church fall apart. Remember, there is nowhere in Scripture where Jesus said He will build your marriage.

*To Respect means to praise:*

The average man gets zero praise. That is dangerous. What hurts husbands? When wives respect other men (boss, brother, pastor) more than him! You are not married to your pastor. Let's not be naïve, there are times when it is hard to find something to praise in him. But God says you do it because He is the author of marriage and knows how it should work.

But pastor, you don't know the jerk I married! He cheats on me and comes home late. Praise him still! You can find something to praise him for. God knows everything, follow his instruction. Learn to affirm his areas of strength. Next time he comes home late, wake up and receive him, and then thank him for coming home. Let me tell you there are many wives in many churches whose husbands never come home at all. Praise him for that. Receive that man and let him know that you don't know what he is doing and that you don't like it then thank him for coming home. See what happens after that.

Play the **'Tyler Perry'** video

Regular genuine affirmation from a wife is the antidote for a man's insecurity. Men want to be told how good they are as bread winners, fathers, husbands etc. They want their women to be proud of who they are and say it. They thrive when they know that their wives trust, admire and believe in them. This may be foreign to many ladies but it is a fact! A man's need for respect can only be compared to a woman's need for affection. I know that women know how to respect because they do it to their bosses and pastors. You see the way you go the extra mile for your pastor, go and do that to your husband. If you are single and you have a guy who you are struggling to respect, forget about marrying him. Marry a man you can follow.

## **#2 Men cannot read minds**

Women are gifted with intuition. They can check you out and in a few seconds can hear what you're saying and read between the lines. This is a beautiful gift that women have yet it drives men crazy. For example, there are questions that women think a guys should have answers for. A guy asks a lady, "What is wrong?" and she says, "Nothing!" Why? She expects the guy to know what he has done. A guy gets frustrated when he finds a lady upset but doesn't know what to do, even after being given a number of hints. I wish there was something that could translate these things for the guys.

Play the **'Manslator'** video...

Ladies, this gadget doesn't exist. Don't bother looking for it! I bet some of you may have thought that they have found the perfect gift for his birthday. Here's what you should know. Men don't read minds; they read newspapers! '*Hintish*' is a language that men don't speak. So, if you have an issue with a guy, go and be straightforward with him.

### **#3 Men cannot be fixed by a woman**

Some ladies date a guy with a verse in mind – a corruption of Jeremiah 29:11 – 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the wife to be, plans to change you so that I can have a hope and a future'. You have this guy who you like but you don't approve certain things about him; some friends he has, his lack of ambition, his poor sense of fashion, his devotion to their culture, his closeness to his mum etc. So you marry him promising yourself to fix his 'imperfections'. You take him on as a project.

I have bad news for you; it doesn't work! I agree that women wield tremendous influence over men. Fine, men are the head but women are the neck that turns the head. However, no one can change a man except the man himself with God's help. Taking on the project of 'straightening' your man will bring you nothing but frustration. Do you see 'imperfections' in him? Here's what you need to do: Take a good look at him and ask yourself if you can live with him as he is for the rest of your life. If you can then marry him knowing that once you are married you will work on yourself and pray for him. In case you haven't noticed, you are not the Holy Spirit.

### **#4 Men marry simple girls**

The lie being peddled by society is that 'good girls finish last' and 'bad girls have all the fun'. There is therefore too much pressure to be sexy and to prove your love by how 'bad' you are sexually. The truth is that dressing sexy and being sexy will make you popular and you will get noticed. But that's it! It will not win you a man's respect and men marry women they respect. He may not be conscious of it but a guy will lower the status of a girl who is sleeping around to a plaything. As far as he is concerned she's not marriage material.

Do you want him to be more attracted to him? You will not achieve it by playing to his fantasies from the start. By all means be smart and glamorous but don't forget to be dignified and to be yourself.

### **#5 Not all men are bad**

There are good men out there! Many of them left home and had to survive with little support from home. After college they moved from home and settled on the other side of the street in order to develop muscles as providers. That needs to be celebrated! On the other hand, ladies tend to get a lot more help even after college. Parents rarely cut off their ties and support from their daughters till they get married.

While he is hustling to survive without support from home, she is living with her parents in Ntinda, and they are paying for her MBA yet she has a job. She drives a nice car, wears fancy clothes and prefers to socialize at Silk, Venom or Governor. So when she looks around to spot an eligible guy, she finds no one and concludes that there are no men. When she eventually bumps into him she discovers he is married to someone who is less accomplished than her and she wonders her comes he didn't notice her.

What are women to do? Should they lower their standards and settle for whomever? Absolutely not! You need to know that the kingdom of God operates the seed principle. God gives us raw materials, not finished products. He gives you a raw material (seed) that must go through the process of growth till it matures into the dream He showed you. So ladies, know what you need in a man, clarify what are your deal breakers, and then go where those kinds of men may be found to wait for your raw material.

In conclusion, let's remember the admonition from our text. God expects the relationships in

church to be radically different from those in the world. Where the world offers sexually permissive and purposeless relationships, the church needs to offer mentoring relationship marked by self-controlled. We are called to relate as brothers and sisters so that we can know each other as persons and not as sex and security objects. We're brothers and sisters because of the blood of Christ that delivers us from our brokenness so that we can enjoy deep, meaningful kingdom relationships.

I pray that we will find our identity in God so that we do not wait for the world to define us. I pray that we will have friendships and relationships where we were not dominated or manipulated, but where we are protected and nurtured. I pray that in this church we will treat each other with purity and concern, and that genuine love will become a hallmark of our friendships.

**Pray:**

For all the married ladies in the house:

- wisdom to apply this in their marriages,
- wisdom to become mentors to others,
- help for those whose marriages that are struggling,

For all the single ladies in the house:

- wisdom to apply this and to live lives that honor God

For those in relationships:

- wisdom to apply this and to honor God in those relationships

For those who've been hurt in relationships:

- wisdom to apply this and to find healing