

## WHAT WOMEN WISH MEN KNEW ABOUT THEM

Galatians 3:26-28

May 10, 2009, Sunday A.M.

### INTRODUCTION

- A. To say men and women are different is an understatement.
  1. Dr. John Gray says men and women are from different planets! (*Men are From Mars, Women are From Venus*, Harper Collins Pub., 1992)
  2. Consider just three differences between men and women according to Dr. Gray.
    - a. Men and women solve problems differently.
      - i. Men offer women solutions to their problems and in doing so fail to validate a woman's feelings (examples, p. 25).
      - ii Women offer men unsolicited advice and direction (p. 27).
    - b. Men and women handle stress differently.
      - i. Men mull things over, they pull away and silently think about what's bothering them.
      - ii. Women think out loud. They need to talk about what's bothering them.
    - c. Men and women are motivated differently.
      - i. Men are motivated by feeling needed.
      - ii Women are motivated by feeling loved and cherished.
- B. Dr. Willard Harley, Jr. (*Your Love and Marriage*, Fleming Revel, 1997), pointing out another difference, says women tend to be more concerned about their marriage than men.
  1. They buy most of the books on marriage.
  2. They often complain about their marriage to their closest friends and sometimes to anyone who will listen.
  3. And they file for divorce twice as often as men.
- C. Dr. Harley says there are two common reasons women file for divorce.
  1. Interestingly, Harley says, few women divorce because of physical abuse, infidelity, alcoholism, criminal behavior, or other serious grounds.
  2. The two most common reasons for divorce listed by women are mental cruelty and neglect.
    - a. Mental cruelty is usually husbands being indifferent and failing to communicate.
    - b. Neglect includes both emotional and physical abandonment.
  3. Simply stated, Dr. Harley says women leave men because they are neglected, because their needs are not being met. Some common complaints expressing this idea are...
    - "I hurt all the time because I feel so alone."
    - "My husband is no longer my friend."
    - "He only pays attention to me when he wants something."
    - "He is never there when I need Him the most."
    - "He hurts my feelings and never apologizes."
    - "He doesn't show any interest in me or what I do."
- D. Harley says men must learn to meet women's most important emotional needs.
  1. We all have many needs.
  2. Usually these needs are different with men and women. A woman's most important needs are usually a man's least important needs and vice-versa. But we usually give attention to meeting what we (men and women) perceive to be our spouse's most important needs. Herein lies the problem. We must know and then give attention to each other's specific needs whether they are our needs or not.
  3. In the marriage relationship there are five essential needs that women have which men must learn to meet. What are they?

## **I. WOMEN NEED AFFECTION**

- A. Affection symbolizes security, protection, comfort, and approval.
- B. Dr. Gary Smalley (“Love is A Decision”) says affection can be communicated in five different ways.
  - 1. Words of Affirmation (Song of Solomon 4:1-4)
  - 2. Quality Time
  - 3. Gifts - flowers, cards, etc.
  - 4. Physical displays (touch). Hugs, holding hands, etc.
  - 5. Acts of Service - helping around the house, keeping gasoline in her car, taking out the trash, etc.

## **II. WOMEN NEED CONVERSATION.**

- A. A Harvard University group studied the speech patterns of four-year-old boys and girls and discovered that 100% of the sounds out of a girl’s mouth had something to do with conversation whereas 60% in boys. The other 40% were animal or machine noises.
- B. This is one of the greatest sources of difficulty between men and women because...
  - 1. Women talk to express emotions.
  - 2. Men talk to solve problems.
- C. The most frequently expressed complaint by women is that men don’t listen (p. 103, “*Men from Mars*”).

## **III. WOMEN NEED HONESTY AND OPENNESS.**

- A. This gives women a sense of security.
- B. They want to know what men are thinking. The problem is that most of the time men don’t think!

## **IV. WOMEN NEED FINANCIAL SUPPORT.**

- A. If your husband has a regular job you probably don’t think much about this need but, what if he loses his job or suddenly decides you should earn the living for both of you?
- B. Money meets the need for security in women.

## **V. WOMEN NEED FAMILY COMMITMENT**

- A. This is more than just help taking care of the kids.
- B. It’s taking responsibility for the physical, emotional and educational development of the children.
  - 1. It involves spending time with the children.
  - 2. It involves imparting values to the children.

## **CONCLUSION**

- A. If our marriages are to survive and thrive, then men must start meeting the needs of their women.
- B. One need we all have is for Jesus.