

McCabe United Methodist Church
Making Love Last a Lifetime (part 2)
“What Men Wish Women Knew About Men”
Ephesians 5:21-24, 33
Pastor Ray Baker

God created us male and female. And God said it was good. Last week Pastor Rick told you about what women wish men knew about women. He even asked you to take notes, so you could talk about these issues later. There is another insert in you bulletin this week, in case you want to write something down.

Rick discussed the helpful image of the “love bank.” He said men need to make deposits, on a regular basis, to maintain a positive balance in a woman’s love. The four most common ways to keep a positive balance is through the “4-A’s”: affection, attention, active involvement in the home, and appreciation.

Today we’re here to talk about men. Men are different than women. We look at the world differently. We listen differently. We act differently.
For example:

One day Lars decided to go over and visit with Ole. When he arrived he heard music coming from the barn, so he headed that way. When he stepped inside the door he stopped short with surprise. There...in the middle of the shop...Ole was doing a dance in front of his old McCormick Farmall “Super A” tractor.

The music was playing and...Ole was rollin’ his hips. He slipped off one shoulder strap from his overalls...and then the other. He slowly unbuttoned his shirt and threw it in the stall on his left. Then he took off his seed corn cap and threw it in the stall to his right.

That’s when Lars spoke up. He shouted: “Ole, what the heck are ya’ doin’ in front of that tractor? Have ya’ lost your mind?”

Ole was pretty embarrassed. He kicked a clump of dirt that was lying on the shop floor and explained: “Lena and I’ve been seein’ the marriage counselor. He told me I need to learn how to express myself. He said I need to do something sexy to a tractor (attract her).”

Men sometimes need to move outside their comfort zone in order to show their love for their wives. But women need to know that men also have a “love bank.” Women need to make deposits in their husbands “love bank.”

A survey was taken and it showed men of all age groups need **affirmation**. Men like words of encouragement, words of support, and we like to be encouraged. A good book that describes this need is Gary Chapman’s book: The Five Love Languages. He points out that giving our spouse affirmation is one of the ways we show our love for them. Men need to know their wives believe in them. Men need to know their wives are proud of the work they do.

Another thing men report is their need “to have someone **listen**.” This seems a little strange; because women report men don’t express themselves enough.

Well, there are a couple things going on here. First, men aren’t ready to talk when they first walk in the door. Men need downtime to reenergize their battery. It’s different for each person. Some men need a few minutes to relax on the drive home from work. Others need some serious “cave time.” Call me in an hour. But it’s normal for a man to need their space.

As you know, men are more likely to report events than to share their feeling. Men are more apt to be rational and tell you what they’re thinking rather than how their feeling. Men will share the details of what happened without talking about being angry, mad, or sad.

Men do want a place where they can talk about their victories at work, the good idea they shared with their boss or coworker. Society doesn’t allow us to do those things in very many places. BUT, we can share them with our spouse.

Another thing married men are looking for is **family support** or as the book: The Five Love Languages puts it...men appreciate “act of service.”

Men appreciate and recognize the hard work and commitment of their spouse. A man greatly appreciates the efforts his spouse makes to keep the family unit strong. But gentlemen, please remember to speak up. Say thank you. Give your wives compliments about all the hard work they do for you and your family.

Something that is not a surprise is men need something else. It's a ticklish subject...one we don't usually talk about in church. Rick mentioned that we would discuss this subject, but he is noticeably absent. In fact, he planned his vacation so I would be left holding the bag...to talk about..."having coffee" or whatever euphemism you use at your house.

Men need **sexual intimacy**. As someone once pointed out to me...it's how we're wired. Men, especially in their 30's, 40's, and 50's all stated sexual intimacy is important to them. It was not their number one concern, but they equated the ability to be sexually intimate with their love for their spouse. In fact, they said when their spouse initiated sexual intimacy it was a wonderful way for her to express love for him.

Married men want **quality time doing things together**. You may remember that last week Rick said women want men to be more involved in the household. Well, this is different. Men are looking for something else.

When men talk about having quality time with their family they are more apt to look for recreational companionship. They want their family to do things together. Yes, homework and housework are important, but sometimes...once in a while...it can wait, because it's also important for the family to play together.

Last week Pastor Rick shared some of the things married women don't want. Well, let's offer equal time to the men. There are three major things that married men don't want.

1. The number one answer in the survey was men don't want their wives to be stressed. One person even said he realized he was the one causing stress for their wife, but he still wished she experienced less stress.
2. "Another frequently given answer was they wanted their wives to be more positive and encouraging and less critical. One man noted, 'A little word of encouragement once in a while would go a long way.'"
3. Finally, don't expect us to read your minds. Yes, we know you had an appointment at the salon. But NO we're not going to think about it the moment you walk in the door. Instead of setting us up for failure, come in the door and say: "I just had my hair cut and colored and I Love it!" Then we will tell you how beautiful you are. After all, men are often slow, but seldom dense. Besides, this is a Win – Win approach! Everyone's happy!!!

Do you remember this morning's scripture? Today's scripture is one of the most controversial scriptures of the past thirty years. Modern women hate it. They don't like being told they should be "subject to" their husbands. They don't like being image of a woman as a "lesser being." I don't blame them one bit.

This scripture was written at a time when women were considered the property of their father's and husband's. They had almost no rights or freedoms. Fortunately, we live in a country where women are not property. We believe they have equal rights with men.

When we read today's scripture with fresh eyes we see its limitations and we know it's important to treat each other equally. I like the way Eugene Peterson's paraphrased this bible verse in The Message; Ephesians 5:25-28:

²⁵⁻²⁸ Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness. And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. They're really doing themselves a favor—since they're already "one" in marriage.

I pray that men and women will remember these words. We are to love each other as Christ loved the church. We are to share a love marked by giving, not getting. We are to build each other up and to treat each other as one.

Please come back next week and we will spend some time talking about marriage...after the honeymoon is over. We'll try to make it fun and share a few thought that will help all of us see ourselves...and maybe even laugh at ourselves,