

# **“Quiet Talks On Marriage”**

## **Session IV**

### **The Biblical Role of the Husband:**

*"How Can I Be The Husband God Wants Me To Be?"*

As we begin this fourth discussion, we want to focus on the instructions given in God's Word to the "Husband".

**This order is Biblically significant:** God always speaks to the man first! From the first family onward, God focuses on the responsibility of the man, the husband, to walk before Him in obedience! In the Garden of Eden, after Adam and Eve "sinned", they hid from God. When God found them, He said, "Adam, where are you?" God called "Adam" by name -- He held Adam responsible for the conduct of his family!

--**Men**, God always speaks first to us -- He holds us responsible to lead our family!

But, God never commands us to do anything that He does not enable us to do, when

we look to Him in simple "faith"! Nothing will cause a man to grow spiritually like

becoming a leader to his family -- stepping up and leading out to "obey" God!

Thus far, we have used the "Hand" in two ways in our study:

1. To picture the "**good hand**" -- the "Basic Needs of a Marriage".
2. To picture the "**bad hand**" -- "Satan's Weapons to Destroy a Marriage".

--Now, we need to use the "Hand" again! Imagine that you have a "**Third hand**"

--So, to the "**good hand**" and the "**bad hand**" let's add . . .

**“The Five \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_”**  
**→ for a Married Couple**

### **A. What are the "Five Biblical Priorities Of Life" → for a Married Couple?**

--Let's put these on the fingers of your hand! Let's begin with your "thumb".

1. “\_\_\_\_\_” → Is the “first” priority of a Christian's life!

*“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness;  
and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:33*

--No Christian argues with this concept! Every Child of God knows that  
“Jesus”

is the “**first**” issue of life! He is Lord of life! Everything in life is to be  
surrendered to His Glory!

--And when He is “Lord” of life, God promises to take care of the remaining  
“needs” of our life – the things that often keep Him from being our “first”  
focus!

2. My “\_\_\_\_\_” → Is the “second” priority of my  
life!

--To the **Husband** God says,

*“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church  
and gave Himself up for her.” Ephesians 5:25*

→As Christ cared for His Body, the Church, so a man is to “care” for  
his  
wife!

--To the **Wife** God says,

*“Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.” Eph. 5:22*

→In the same way that a wife recognizes the “leadership” of Christ in  
her  
life, she is to recognize the “leadership” of her Husband! This is  
reflected  
in her “attitude” toward her husband – the recognition of God’s  
structure  
for the family!

Note this please:

--Unlike the first priority which has little opposition or controversy, this  
second  
priority is one of the most misunderstood and misrepresented teachings  
in  
Scripture. Basically, this second priority is not accepted in our modern  
world –  
it is seen as a harmful “holdover” from the past!

--For the moment, let’s just point out the “**place**” my wife is to hold in my  
life;

--Simply stated, this second priority teaches that the person I am married to is to hold the most important **“place”** in my life, other than Jesus Christ! My **“first focus”** is Christ; my **“second focus”** is my marriage partner!

*"And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up  
in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."* Ephesians 6:4

partner in importance and focus! This is not good for the children and it certainly is not good for the marriage!

local “Church” which I attend with my family, is just a “small” part of a

“world-wide” movement!

*"And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,  
not forsaking our own 'assembling together', as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near."*

Hebrews

10:24-25

--A Christian “family” is to be involved as a meaningful part of a Church “family”!

This involvement provides an essential “encouragement” for spiritual growth

and well-being! The “Church” should “reinforce” what is taught in the home!

**5. Our “\_\_\_\_\_” → is the “fifth” priority of a Christian's life!**

→ Our basic “life responsibilities”, whether we are paid or volunteer!

*"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,*

*giving thanks through Him to God the Father."*

Colossians

3:17

--Our “work” or daily “responsibilities” are to be done in **the name of Jesus!**

*"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men;*

*knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance.*

*It is the Lord Christ whom you serve."*

Colossians

3:23-24

--The Christian “works” **first** for Jesus Christ's glory, then for human approval!

## **B. What are the "Consequences" for Failure to Hold These Priorities?**

--What will happen if my “priorities” are not right?

1. I will have “\_\_\_\_\_” → a “false god” will rule my life!

--If the “real” God is not first in my life, something else will be!

2. I will have “\_\_\_\_\_” in my life → I will make “poor decisions”!

--“Right” priorities enable me to “see”, to discern what is “right” and “best”!

3. I will allow “\_\_\_\_\_” to enter into and to influence

my family!

--I will not be able to “discern” what is valuable for eternity!

--Note: What I “love”, I pass on to my children to be “loved”!

My wrong “priorities” will be learned by them!

--They will adopt my wrong “gods”; wrong “decisions”; wrong “values”!

--This is the most damaging consequence of all!

### **C. What are the "Benefits" for Holding These Biblical Priorities?**

1. As a couple, and as parents, the family will be “**guided**” by . . .  
a genuine “knowledge” of God; right “decisions” for life; eternal “values”!

2. Individually, you will know how to **make “decisions”**!

When you face a “decision” in life; when you need to make the “right” move

. . .

use this “Third Hand” – think through the “Five Priorities”! As silly as it might

sound . . . hold this “Third Hand” up before your eyes! Literally, hold up your

hand . . . and, look at it! Put it between you and the “decision” you face.

Then, think through the “**Five Priorities**” in their proper order:

**“Jesus Christ” → “Husband/Wife” → “Children” → “Church” → “Work”**

When you have finished, you will almost always know the “right” or “best” decision!

How valuable is that?

## **Biblical Guidelines For The Husband**

Having identified these "Biblical Priorities", a husband can understand the "**place**" of importance and influence his wife is to hold in their marriage and home!

--The second most important issue for a Christian husband is his **WIFE!**

--Men, say it with me, "*The second Biblical priority of my life is my Wife!*"

--This second priority is summed for a husband in **two** "**Basic Commands**":  
God says many things to us about our wives, but He summarizes them all in two commands . . . He keeps it simple! He knows that is what we need!

**The two Biblical "Commands" are . . .**

-- The husband is commanded to " \_\_\_\_\_ " his wife!  
and,

-- The husband is instructed to " \_\_\_\_\_ " his wife!

--**Two words: "Love" and "Understand"!**

--Now, let's ask God to help us "understand" these two Biblical "words"!

### **I. The Husband Is Commanded To " \_\_\_\_\_ " His Wife!**

*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself up*

*for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with*

*the word, that He might present to Himself the Church in all her glory, having no spot*

*or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless."*

Ephesians

5:25-27

#### **A. The "Command":**

1. The command of these verses is very clear!  
--The husband is to "**love**" his wife!  
--The husband is to "**love**" his wife – *"as Christ also loved the Church!"*

2. Now, when we see this command – to "**love**" our wives . . . we have some  
"definition" of what it means . . . some "picture" comes to our mind! We  
all  
have come "concept" of "love"!  
--But, our definition is often "inaccurate" or "inadequate"!

**B. The "Problem":** We don't have the ability to love as God loves!  
We only "love" as we "define" it or "understand" it!  
Until God teaches us and enables us to "love" in His way,  
we will never be able to fulfill this command!

Note: There are two kinds of "love" → "**Human**" love/"**Divine**" love!  
→ Our kind of "love" and God's kind!

1. Let's look at "**Human**" Love for a minute: The Greeks had several words for

"love" . . . let's consider two of the most important ones:

a. The first, "**phileo**" = "to have common interests 'with' someone"  
someone;

= "**brotherly love**" → in a "family"; among close  
"friends".

b. The second, "**eros**" = "**sexual desire**" → the desire for sexual  
intimacy.

→ in Greek mythology, "Eros", was the "god of  
love";

→ in Roman mythology, it was "Cupid".

--Humanly, we use the word, "love", for "brotherly love" or "sexual  
desire".

--At times this human "love" can be very meaningful; at other times  
very

weak and inadequate! But, even when it is meaningful, it is never  
perfect!

2. Let's look at "**Divine**" Love for a minute:

The Greek language had another work for "love", a word that was  
selected by

the writers of the New Testament to express the “love of God”. When this word was used of God, it was a perfect love!

--The word was “**agape**” = “to love”; “to take genuine interest ‘in’ someone”;

“to ‘**invest**’ in someone”;  
“to make your life part of their life!”

--God’s love is “agape” love!

--When used in Scripture of God “agape” means:

**“unconditional, sacrificial self-giving”!**

(It is used in John 3:16)

*“For God so loved (agapao) the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*

--Note: We don't have “agape” in and of ourselves – we don’t “love”

the way He does! It is the **gift** of God to us; it is the **work** of God in us!

--So, God’s “**love**” (“agape”) = **“unconditional, sacrificial self-giving”!**

**C.** Let’s expand this “**Meaning**” just a bit:

1. God’s “love” is “\_\_\_\_\_”!

a. “**Unconditional Commitment**” means that the husband is not allowed to

place any conditions on his commitment to his wife!

\*\*There can be no “**ifs**”: Such as, “I will love you if you do what I expect!”

or, “I will love you if you are a ‘good’ wife to me”!

b. “**Unconditional Commitment**” means that the husband is to maintain his

commitment to his wife, even when she does not seem to be



committed to

him. John 1:11 describes the love of Jesus Christ →

*"He came unto His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him."*

--Christ's response to those He loved was not determined by their response

to Him → His "**love**" was unconditional!

2. God's love is "\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_"!

a. "Sacrificial Self-giving" means that the husband is to **give himself** to meet

the true "needs" of his wife!

\*\*A husband is to focus on his wife's "**needs**", those things which are

essential, those things which matter for eternity -- not just her

**"wants"**,

which often can be non-essential and short-lived!

\*\*He is to "lose" his life for her – whatever that means!

b. A Biblical Illustration of the "love" of Jesus is described in **Mark 10:42-45**.

*"Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, 'You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles **lord it over** them; and their great men **exercise authority** over them. But it is not the way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your **servant**; and whoever to be first among you shall be **slave** of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to **serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many.'"*

--God's "**love**", does not "**lord it over**" others!

--God's "**love**", defines greatness as "**servanthood**"!

--God's "**love**", seeks to "**give**" life for the true needs of others!

**D. What are the "Results": What Will Happen When I truly "Love" My Wife?**

1. My wife will “grow \_\_\_\_\_”!

--She will experience “spiritual” growth!

a. Christ's goal in “loving” the Church, Eph. 5:25, was to . . . “**Sanctify**”

her!

--the word “sanctify” means “to set apart”; “to make holy”.

--this was the true need of the Church → to be “set apart” from sin

and

“set apart” to Christ – to “belong” to Him!

My wife will “grow” spiritually!

b. This must be the goal of the Husband, to see his wife “**Sanctified**”!

--This is the greatest “love” a husband can have for his wife → to

see her

“set apart” to the Lord → to “belong” to Jesus Christ!

→ to see her living victoriously over sin!

→ to see her being used by God for His glory!

--A Warning: Men, sometimes the selfishness of our “love” is

shown by

the fact that we want our wives to be “set apart” for us – to belong

to us

more than belonging to Christ! Remember, the highest, purest

“love” I

can have for my wife is to encourage her in her love for Christ!

--An Amazing Fact: The more a “wife” grows in her love of Jesus

Christ,

the deeper and greater her love will grow for her husband! Want

your

wife to love you . . . help her grow in her love for Christ!

c. “How” does a husband accomplish this goal – to see his wife “grow” spiritually?

--**Key**: The “Word” of God!

Ephesians 5:26 speaks of Christ's ministry to the Church:

“ . . . *having cleansed her by the washing of water by the word* . .

.”

--The Word of God performs a special ministry in the heart of every Christian → it **sanctifies**!

→ it **sets us apart to Christ!**

→ it **cleanses!**

--The Husband must see that his wife has "private" time to be in the

Word

for herself.

→A wife is tremendously encouraged when her husband helps

make

it possible for her to spend "quiet time" in God's Word.

*"Like newborn babes, long for the pure (unadulterated) milk of the Word, that by it you may grow . . ."* 1 Peter 2:2

→So, my wife will "grow" spiritually!

## 2. My wife will "grow \_\_\_\_\_"!

--She will experience "personal" growth – as an individual!

a. Notice that Jesus Christ had a very **personal** goal in "loving" the Church,

*". . . that He might **present to Himself** the Church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless."* Eph. 5:27

--Notice: The Church, Christ's "Bride", has her own special **glory!**

→Jesus Christ made it possible for His "Bride" to be without "spot or wrinkle or any such thing"!

→Jesus Christ made his "Bride" "**beautiful**"!

--Notice: Her "beauty" was primarily **inward!**

*". . . but that she should be holy and blameless."*

→These are "inward" spiritual qualities of the heart and spirit!

b. The goal of the Husband must be to see his wife . . . **Beautified!**

→To see that she focuses on "inner beauty"!

→To see that she has no "spot" or "wrinkle"--no character flaws, deficiencies, or immaturities which limit her true personal

"beauty"!

c. **How** does a Husband accomplish this goal – "personal" growth for his wife?

--Key: "**Patient**" Encouragement and Prayer.

1) A Husband makes a serious mistake when he places his main

"focus"

on his wife's "outer" beauty!

**Q:** Men, here is a hard question: If I were to ask your wife where she feels the most "pressure" from you . . . on her "outward" beauty, or on her "inward" beauty . . . what would she say? Where does she feel the pressure or expectation?

2) A Husband makes a serious mistake when he puts "pressure" on his wife to change her personality or personal habits or traits.

**Note:** Men, lasting change is God's "work" -- only He can do it! What your wife needs is "**patient encouragement**" -- for you to give God "time" to do His work in her life!

3) One of the best sources of this "**patience**" for the Husband and "**encouragement**" for the wife is "joint prayer" – seeking God together!  
--"Joint prayer" is extremely encouraging to a Christian wife!  
She feels God's "strength" and her husband's "support"!

**3. When I "love" My wife → My marriage will be "                    "!**

- a. When a husband "loves" his wife with the love of Christ, **unity** results!  
--They are "together" in Christian growth!
- c. The Husband's **love** will build his wife's **respect**!  
--Remember: "Respect" is the heart of a Christian woman's love!
- d. The Husband's **love** will cause his wife to **respond** to his love!  
--A Promise: Few women will fail to "respond" to love that is **Christ-like**!

**Men**, would you agree that we are incapable of "loving" our wives, of "laying our lives down" for them, without God's help? Would you agree that most of us know little about "sacrificial" love?

--If it would be helpful, stop this recording and do two things:  
talk to God . . . talk to your wife!

1. Talk to God – admit your need of Him – for His “life” to do in you what you cannot!

2. Talk to your Wife – admit your past failure and earnestly tell her that you desire  
for God to make changes in you that will change the way you relate to her!

--**Men**, we are instructed and enabled to “**love**” our wives – the way Christ “loves”!

--The second command God gives to the Husband is found in **I Peter 3:7**.  
It is . . .

## **II. The Husband Is Instructed To “\_\_\_\_\_” His Wife!**

*"You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered."* I Peter 3:7

### **A. The "Command":**

1. The command of this verse is very clear!

--The husband is to “**understand**” his wife!

--He is to live with her “**according to knowledge**”!

--The Greek text says, “. . . *live with your wives according to knowledge . . .*”

--He is to “know who she really is”!

2. The Greek word used here is “gnosis” = “knowledge”; it is from the verb, “ginosko” = “to know experientially”.

--To “know” something “experientially” is to know more than the basic “facts” →

it is to have “hands-on” experience!

--It is the difference between “reading a book” about how sky-scrapers

are

built or having been the “architect” of the building project!

→ In marriage, it is the difference between just “living with” your wife,  
or having an “**intimate awareness**” of who she really is!

3. Finally, notice that this verse, I Peter 3:7, ends with a **warning**!

--A Christian husband's ability to “pray” for his wife will be hindered if . . .

a. He doesn’t really “understand” her → the person she actually is!

b. He doesn’t “honor” her → truly “respect” who she is!

--Think of it men, if we don’t have an “**intimate awareness**” of our

wives,

we cannot be effective in praying for them!

**B. The “Problem”:** Most men do not really understand their wives! They  
might

know a lot “about” them . . . but they don’t really “know”  
them!

--Two reasons why men struggle to “understand” their wives:

1. First, they struggle because they had “little” or “no” **Family Training**:

a. There was no Biblical “role model” in their home → the father did not  
teach

the sons how to **love** and **understand** women.

b. Also, in many cases, the “role model” or “father figure” actually taught  
negative or harmful patterns toward women!

2. Second, they struggle because they have had “little” or “no” **Biblical Training**:

a. Many men were reared in non-Christian homes and received no  
Biblical

“Truth” about the family! And, sadly, some Christian homes taught  
“little” or

“no” Biblical “Truth” about the family, either!

b. Then, many men have attended Churches that did not teach basic  
Biblical

“**honor**”  
“Truth” about the family! Many Churches do not teach men to

women in the way God intended – as those deserving equal “honor”  
in the

eyes of God!



the

risk of his rejection, or ridicule, or rebuke!

**\*\*A husband must never make light of what is of concern to his wife!**

- c. Some Illustrations of "Emotional Needs" are:
- Concern about the children in the family;
  - Worry about the financial needs of the family;
  - Concern about relationships within her maiden family;
  - Worry about her health;
  - Concern about her job or a relationship at work;
  - Concern about relationships or issues in the Church;
  - Uncertainty about her relationship with her husband.

3. Third, "**Intimate Awareness**" of her "\_\_\_\_\_"  
\_\_\_\_\_!"

a. Every Christian woman has "spiritual needs". These grow out of the fact that

she is spiritually "alive" and desires to be "pleasing" to her Savior.

b. Every Christian woman has the need to . . .

*"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus*

*Christ."*

II Peter

3:18

- c. Illustrations of "spiritual needs":
- To have "assurance" of salvation;
  - To have meaningful involvement in a Church;
  - To learn how to study God's Word for herself;
  - To have time to spend in "quiet" with the Lord;
  - To develop a personal prayer life;
  - To develop a prayer life with her husband;
  - To learn how to share spiritually with her husband;
  - To learn to "walk by faith".
  - To learn how to respond to "spiritual warfare";
  - To learn how to conquer "fear" or "anger".
  - To learn how to "forgive"!

**D.** The important question for every Husband is "**How**"? How Can I Have an "Intimate Awareness" Of My Wife? What are the "**Means**"?



--Let's go back through the **three areas** where a wife desires to be "known"!

1. First, in order to be **aware** of her "Physical Needs" →

**Make A "\_\_\_\_\_!"**

--Ask your wife to make a "**list**" of the things she needs done in her "physical"

world and give that "list" to you.

--Read over the "list", but before you argue or get angry about what she put on

the "list", take the list to God -- **pray over it!**

--Then, plan and carry out your wife's "list"! How long it takes is not the issue,

and as long as you are making a genuine effort. When you give the "time"

"energy" of your life to your wife in this area, you will be "laying your life

down for her" in very practical and discernable ways! In meeting her "needs"

you will be "loving her as Christ loved the Church"!

Years ago, I talked with a Christian husband, married to an unbelieving wife.

Their relationship was strained by years of conflict and hurtful words. I took

him through these basic Biblical principles and he genuinely set about to

"help" his wife with her "physical" world. He began to attempt to help her in

the home, especially with things he saw in the kitchen, like loading the dish-

washer. One day his wife shouted, "I know what you are trying to do, and I

appreciate it, but you are like a 'bull in a china closet'! If you really want to

show me that you love me, get out of my kitchen and go to the backyard and

do the work I've been asking you to do for over a year!

--This husband needed a "list" from his wife. He needed to know what would

be truly "helpful" to her in her physical world. His efforts were genuine, but

misguided!

--Men, ask your wife for a "list" – you can't be effective without it!

2. Second, in order to be **aware** of her "Emotional Needs" →

### Learn To "\_\_\_\_\_"!

--Ask God to make you "sensitive" to your wife's inner needs.

--Ask God to give you "ears to hear" what your wife is saying!

--Tell her that you have realized your need to listen carefully to her

and want to set aside a period of time to "listen" to her!

--Tell her when this time will be and follow through on it – do what you have

promised! Don't be surprised if "something" happens to hinder or interfere

with the appointed time! Our spiritual enemy is very real → remember, he

wants to "kill" your marriage!

When you begin, restate your desire to "listen" to her and do not interrupt

your wife as she **shares** with you! **Listen!**

A man came to see me whose wife was asking for a divorce. Her main complaint,

"You don't even know me!" He truly loved his wife, but had come to the point of total

frustration in knowing what to do! He would "say" the right things to his wife, but nothing he said had any meaning to her! They had become "empty promises"!

We discussed the need for a husband to learn how to "listen" to his wife and to gain

an "intimate awareness" of her -- the areas where she felt "alone" and "unknown".

I suggested that he arrange a "time" to listen to her and that he set clearly defined

"ground-rules" for their conversation -- he would "listen" to her without

interruption

and without arguing! They "talk" about what she wanted to talk about!

The Results were very interesting! He followed through with the suggestions

I had

made. He suggested the time and they sat down together. He told her

again that

he really wanted to "listen" to what was important to her, and that he was

going to

be quiet -- to say nothing!

Then, he waited for his wife to begin talking . . . the wife responded by

saying

nothing! She said nothing . . . for almost ten minutes! Apparently she didn't

believe

he was serious -- he never really let her "talk from her heart" before, without interruption or defensive argument!

Then, after that long silence she started to cry . . . he said she cried "uncontrollably"

. . . for another ten minutes!

(Now, at this point, most men bail out and say, "*That's just like a woman; this is why I can't talk to you!*")

But, he just waited . . . he kept his word . . . he said nothing . . . he waited!

Eventually, she composed herself, and began to talk . . . and she talked for

the next

two hours. She told her husband that had waited for 20 years to have this

conver-

sation. His comment was, "*She told me things about herself that she had*

never

*been able to tell me!*"

--Men, most of our wives have things hidden deep within that they want

or

need to share! What would your wife say to you? What would she

reveal

about herself that you do not know? Men, realize it . . . You can live

with

your wife for much of a lifetime . . . and never really "know" her.

There are few things that would mean more to her than "intimate awareness"!

There are few things that would express your love more!  
Learn to "listen"!

3. Third, in order to be **aware** of her "Spiritual Needs" →

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ” and “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”!

--Tell your wife that you want to develop the habit of . . .

→Reading the Word with her;

→Praying with her.

--Tell your wife that you want to experience the "bonding" of spiritual  
union with

her!

→That you want "oneness" on the deepest level – the level of the  
“spirit”!

--Follow through by agreeing to structure your life to allow for private  
time to

read the Word of God together. This time should not involve the  
children.

They need their own time of Bible reading or Bible stories. This “time”  
is for

you as a Christian couple. This will probably be hard to do -- it will  
require

major changes in the “structure” of your family life! Sometimes, it is  
nothing

less that "spiritual" **war**! But, it is a "war" that God will win if you "obey"  
Him!

--Warning: Don't "**preach**" to each other--just read the Word together!

Take

turns reading the Word out loud! Sometimes, we as men, feel  
"embarrassed"

to read publically, even in the presence of our wife. Men, a husband  
reading

the Word of God out loud, even when he makes mistakes, is like  
beautiful

music to the ears of a Christian wife! It has great spiritual power! Do it

. . .

and within a few weeks, it will be "natural"!

--Helpful Note: Don't become "**legalistic**" -- you probably won't be able to have this "time" every night, especially if your children are small. Grab every opportunity your life will allow. Just don't let a full week go by without having at least one "quality" time together in the Word of God!

--After you read the Word of God together, **share** what has been meaningful to you -- what has God "said" by His Word? "Sharing" is not "preaching"!

--Conclude you time by **praying** together. Nothing reveals the deepest levels

of our life more than "prayer" to God. When we speak to Him, we move to a different level of openness and honesty! Every Christian knows that you cannot "play games" with God -- we know that He "knows" everything! So, a husband and wife in prayer before God reach a deep level of openness and honesty! A different level of "union" begins to "**bond**" the marriage! It is a "union" that many marriages have never known.

--Men, **pray** with your wife, even if you stumble and stammer.  
Remember,  
you're talking to God, not your wife!

--Many men ask me, "Pastor, Jerry, what do I say?  
If you have been practicing "Listening" to your wife, you should have a  
long  
list of her "inner concerns"! Take this list of inner concerns of your wife  
to the  
Lord in prayer – just "talk" to God about your wife's concerns!

### E. The Results: What Will Happen When I Obey God?

--You will continue to “build” the benefits of learning to “love” your wife!

1. Your wife will have a growing “\_\_\_\_\_” for you as her husband!

--This will meet her deep need to be truly “known” by you!  
--This will build her “Security” by being able to “Trust” you from her inner being!

2. Your wife will have a growing “\_\_\_\_\_” to you as her husband!

--This will meet your needs to be “one” with her!  
--This will build your “Self-worth” as a man – to know you are truly loved by  
your wife!

**Heavenly Father, I thank you for my wife. She is your “gift” to me to be my “helper” in life! Without a healthy relationship with her, I can never fully become the man you intend for me to be.**

**Father, I confess that I have failed my wife in many ways and that at times I have hurt and disappointed her! I ask your forgiveness; I ask her forgiveness!**

**Be my “Enabler” to “Love” her unconditionally and sacrificially. My failures prove that I cannot do these things. Thank you that you “live” in me – I want Your “love” to flow through me to my wife.**

**Father, I want to get to “Know” my wife in the areas that matter most to her. I want her to be the woman that you have created and saved her to be! I confess my selfishness!**

**I want to change the structure of our home so that we can have regular times of communication with each other and with You. Enable me to be the “leader” in making these changes and may our children reap the benefits of what You are doing in us!**

**I pray in Jesus Name, Amen.**