

SERIES: RELATIONSHIPS MATTER
PART 4b: THE FIVE LOVE NEEDS OF A MAN

Good morning, everyone. It is great to have you here. Would you read with me Ephesians 5:21 out loud, let's begin, "**And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.**" For our series, RELATIONSHIPS MATTER, one of the main ways we who are married learn to submit to one another is built into becoming a student of your wife, of your husband, and become an expert in knowing what their needs are, and then you commit yourself to mastering your spouses' needs, and you meet them every day. Loved ones, I am telling you, if we will do this we will see divorce disappear in our church and in our community. We will see domestic abuse, sexual abuse, emotional and relational neglect recede. Do you believe that is a worthy goal for us to achieve in this Decade of Destiny and 2018: THE YEAR OF BREAKTHROUGH and HERE WE STAND 2109? We can see heaven on earth in our marriages, our families, relationships, and friendships if we will adopt what the Bible says, and what I am teaching us.

I want to encourage every one of you to get the book by **Dr. Gary and Barbara Rosberg, The 5 Love Needs of Men and Women**. Let me give you a heads up: another book by these same authors is entitled, **The 5 Sex Needs of Men and Women**.

The five needs of a woman that we looked at three weeks ago are: **1) Unconditional Love, 2) Intimacy, spelled TALK, 3) Spiritual Intimacy, 4) Encouragement, and 5) Friendship.**

Today, I want to finish what I started two weeks ago. We looked at the first two love needs of a man. You can see points I and II on your notes that, like the woman, a man's #1 need is unconditional love. Like the woman, a man's 2nd love need is intimacy. But as the woman's intimacy need is emotional, vulnerable and transparent talk, the man's need is sexual in nature. We noted that up to 90% of a man's masculinity is tied up with his sexuality and how it is expressed in marriage with his wife. This is one of the reasons for marriage. When a man's sexual need is met through a mature relationship with his wife, a man's sexuality becomes a profound asset, not only to himself, but to his wife, children, church family, and culture. What we're seeing in our culture is male sexuality gone wild. One of the reasons for the sexual confusion that is destroying our culture is that men have not known how to relate properly in getting this need met. Through infidelity, adultery, affairs, prostitution, rape, incest, and pornography, the traditional family unit has been decimated. I believe the proliferation of gender confusion that has led to our obsession with same sex attraction and transgender issues is because the Christian family and the Christian male has not taken seriously enough the issue of male sexuality.

If there is going to be a godly sexual revolution in our culture it must begin with us.

Look at the 3rd love need of a man:

III. How to meet your husband's (a man's) need for friendship

The lonely American male is well documented. Most men do not have the kind of relationships where he can lower his guard, not be in control and learn to be honest, vulnerable and learn to trust. Wives, you're in a unique place to meet one of your husband's deepest needs.

A. What does your husband need in a friendship with you?

In this need your husband is saying to you wives and future wives, **"I need you as my most trusted companion."** Please understand, wives, you can see how important it is that you understand that his #1 need is for unconditional love and his 2nd need is for intimacy, which is translated sexual intimacy. If these two needs are on your radar, women, you're in a great place to meet his friendship need. Your husband needs you:

1) To have realistic expectations of him

This means that it is important to understand that your husband is not going to be like one of your girlfriends. I am never going to be like one of the girls to Kathe. And wives, you don't want him to be one of the girls. You need your husband to be the man God created him to be. Men, you can

help your wife set realistic expectations as you master her love needs. A satisfied woman will not be as demanding as a woman who feels unfulfilled and angry. Proverbs 19:9 says, **“It’s better to live alone in the corner of an attic than with a quarrelsome wife in a lovely home.”** If you’re meeting your wife’s 5 love needs you reduce the pain of this experience. Women, learn to have realistic expectations.

2) To speak the truth in love to him

Please read out loud with me Ephesians 4:15, **“Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body, the church.”** The truth is very difficult for most of us to embrace when we are wrong. None of us likes to be wrong or to have our faults pointed out to us. I have had to learn and continue to learn that I need my wife and others to be able to tell me the truth, especially when I have done something that hurts or hinders them. It is not easy to hear, but if I am going to grow—husbands, wives, friends—if we’re going to keep growing we must be willing to learn how to speak the truth in love to each other, and then each one of us has to be able to receive the truth. Wives, your husband desperately needs you to communicate to him the truth, and it has to be done in love. If you nag, or accuse him or indict him with what you perceive is the truth, he won’t be willing to listen. One night, we were going to a meeting, and Kathe asked me if she could give me a few suggestions. I said, “Yes.” They were profound and truly helped me be successful in that meeting. I need Kathe to speak the truth to me in a loving way so I feel

she truly wants me to be the best me, and she is not taking the truth out on me. Wives, this is what he needs from you as his best friend. You want to check your motives and make sure that the suggestions and ideas you give your husband are truly for his good and not just yours.

3) To be forgiving of him

Please read out loud with me Ephesians 4:32, **“Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”** Wives, it is imperative that you become an expert in forgiving your husband. If you don't, you won't want to be his friend, and he won't want your friendship, and he won't meet your needs. Has your husband made some immature mistakes early in your marriage? Maybe he piled up incredible financial debt that you're still trying to recover from. Perhaps your husband was incredibly selfish about his sexual desires, totally disregarding your needs. Maybe he has given first place to his career. Perhaps he's been insensitive to your career needs, or the reverse, your desire to be a fulltime homemaker. Dear sister and friend, you will want to learn the skills of forgiveness, and cancel the debt against your husband so you truly are his best friend. My last teaching of our Christmas series, which will be on December 30th, is “Choosing to Live a Lifestyle of Forgiveness.” Absolutely imperative if you're going to meet his and your friendship needs.

4) To be honest with him

One thing I know about myself is that honesty is a major building block of my relationships. Whether it is with Kathe, Benjamin, Whitney, our ministry team—I put a high value on honesty. Trust builds friendship. Dishonesty breaks down trust. Distrust impairs healthy relationships. Wives, when your husband knows you're being honest with him, he begins to trust you and can become increasingly vulnerable with you. He won't be vulnerable if you're not honest with him. If he senses he can't trust you in certain areas, he will pull back and become more controlling. Some men come into their marriages with incredible control issues, so much so it can ruin their relationship, and it stops him from having friends. This can manifest itself in how you handle your finances, parenting the kids, communicating with your parents, or deciding how you're going to spend time together. He needs you to be honest with him.

B. How to meet your husband's friendship needs:

1) Let him know you want to be his best friend

Proverbs 18:24, **“There are ‘friends’ who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.”** This is a great starting place for you to start building your friendship with your husband by letting him know, from your perspective, that it is a real need in your relationship. I spent the first 24 years of my life doing things mostly with guys. I continue to learn what it means to do things with Kathe that build our relationship and friendship. Whenever Kathe shows

interest in what I like and do, instead of making fun of what I like, it bonds us together.

2) **Be a safe person for your husband to feel his pain**

Many men are working through some painful events or some unresolved issues in their lives. An alcoholic dad. A broken family. Difficulties as a kid. The list is endless. After I had finished my masters in Theology and Marriage & Family, we were assigned our first senior pastorate in Pomona. The difficulty of that situation put a lot of pressure on some of the wounds I had experienced with my father growing up. I could spend, sometimes, up to several hours of weeping and feeling depressed. Kathe was incredibly sensitive, kind, loving and available to me, even with all of the pressures she was facing. She has been a safe person for me in some of my most difficult places in life. Women, there is nothing like having a wife who is willing to be safe for her husband so he can get in touch with his pain, and she demonstrates unconditional love and acceptance for him.

3) **Love him sacrificially**

Are you holding back things that are important to your husband until you get what's important to you? Sacrificial love says, "I choose to love my husband, my wife, whether they are responding to me the way I want them to or not. I choose to be Jesus to him, to her." 1 Peter 3:9 says, **"Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing."**

That is what God has called you do, and He will bless you for it.” Wives this is where you put your faith to the test. When your husband isn’t treating you the way you feel you deserve, and you choose to respond to him with unconditional love, physical intimacy and friendship because you know that Father God will add value and blessing to your life because of your faithful love to Him and to your husband.

IV. How to meet your husband’s (a man’s) need for encouragement:

A. Encourage him to hear the applause

For those men who have put their faith in Jesus Christ, the applause from heaven, God’s approval, is essential. As his wife, when you encourage him with words of affirmation, encouragement—you demonstrate that you approve of the good things that he does for you, your marriage and your children. If you’re here today and you would say he doesn’t do anything good, I would say to you, “Really? Nothing? Never?” As I say that to you, what is one or two things that pop into your mind that you go, “Well, he does do this and that.” Dear friend, focus on those things and applaud him. As you focus on praising him for his strengths and the good he brings into your life, you will fill his soul with courage to keep loving, accepting and caring for you. Matthew 25:21, **“The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more**

responsibilities. Let's celebrate together." Be your husband's greatest cheerleader.

B. Let him know the ways you see God working in his life

Philippians 1:6, "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

The greatest encouragement you can give your man is to point out ways you see God active in his life. When you see your husband take a stand for what is right, affirm him by telling him you see God's character in him. As you read your Bible and pray each day, share something that you know will encourage and strengthen him. I love it when Kathe shares with me what she is learning from the Bible. Tell your husband how you see God impacting others through his activities and relationships with them. When you see your husband exhibiting one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 6:22—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—let him know, and affirm him for growing in the character of Jesus.

C. Support him having male friends that can hold him accountable

Ecclesiastes 4:12, "A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken." God is saying that two acting together are better than one individual; they can support each

other when there is need for support. Individualism and division make for weakness. There is a proper complex of power in a three-strand rope, provided the strands are good and support one another. Encourage his good male friendships.

D. Encourage him to connect with your children

Dad, you need your children as much as they need you. When I get preoccupied or side tracked Kathe is always there giving me suggestions and ideas on how to stay connected with Benjamin and Whitney. Kathe is extremely tenacious about us being connected to our kids. Encourage your husband to stay connected and involved with your kids regardless of their age.

V. How to meet your husband's need (a man's) for spiritual connection:

Pray for his:

A. Personal time reading God's Word

This is the best support you can give to your husband. Pray that he will develop a real interest, hunger and thirst to know God better through his daily reading of God's Word. Encourage him to join us in reading the Bible bookmark that we use everyday.

B. His prayer life

Pray daily for your husband to learn how to talk with Father God every day. Whenever he is troubled or shares his problems with you, let him know you will join him in prayer together to pray for God's interventions, and then make sure to discuss how God answers your prayers together.

C. His relationships with other men who are pursuing spiritual growth

Encourage his relationships with those men whose priority is to follow Jesus. Men, I encourage you to be with other men here at CVCHURCH. Make some new friends.

D. Developing a lifestyle of giving

I am a giving person, but Kathe makes me a better giver. You can encourage your husband to increase the way he gives to others through the use of his time, talents, treasure, touch, and tithe. Jesus put it this way, "It is much better to give than receive." Once you develop a giving lifestyle, you will see just how true this is.