

# What a Woman Needs from a Man

## FROM A YOUNG MAN - SINGLE

What is a godly young woman looking for in regard to finding a husband?

- **To be valued and respected, cherished and protected -**

This can be seen where a man respects a woman's single covenant (her virginity) and protects this as a most precious and valuable treasure. This is the man she can ultimately trust with her life (i.e. give herself to his headship). She needs to feel that her opinions and likes are taken seriously and given due respect - not ridiculed or made fun of with such things as "dumb jokes".

- **Spiritual priorities**

A young man who puts his relationship with God first, above vocational security or his sport or his car, is a man worthy of her trust and respect..

A worthy young man will also have the ability to live in right order, not being afraid to relate with 'fathers' and be adjusted by them.

She needs a man who is also not afraid to talk on spiritual subjects because they are a normal part of his life. This is the man she can trust to be the spiritual director in his home.

## FROM A FATHER

Children need to know that they are important and treasured as valuable members of the family. They can see this demonstrated to them not only by the words spoken to them, but by the clear actions of their father. Children should be very conscious that...

- **... their father always has time -** time to be together, time to have fun together. A child must be confident that somewhere in Dad's busy schedule there is always time

to talk on matters of concern or interest, not just crisis issues

- **... Dad will always accept** them, despite their misdeeds or misbehaviour. When Dad gives dignity to them as a person, his demand for a proper standard of behaviour gives a child a great sense of security. Their boundaries are clearly defined and their security is assured.
- **...he is valued,** accepted and treasured for himself/herself and that there is nothing Dad wouldn't do to protect, cherish and provide for the child. This is of the utmost importance.

## FROM A HUSBAND

It is clearly seen in the Scriptures that both men and women have been made with legitimate needs and longings that are supplied by the other. There is nothing wrong in longing for legitimate needs to be met. However the difficulty comes when a wife **demand**s that those needs be met in her way or in her time frame. This becomes a self-centred stance of "giving and taking" or a **bargaining** with the expectation of **taking** or getting what she wants. (It is only as a wife learns to rely on God's provision of grace to meet her needs that she is freed from this demanding response).

### Understanding

*1 Pet. 3:7 "Likewise you husbands, dwell with them with understanding, giving honour to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered."*

Most women desire above all to have an understanding and caring husband. However, this has often been interpreted to mean that a husband

is to indulge his wife's emotional demands and fill her needs, all in the name of "understanding". In this situation a wife is tempted to blame external pressures for her internal stress, and her inability to cope on her husband's inadequacies. She feels that if these external pressures are alleviated, then she will be at peace.

Her wrong assumption is that if her husband would only change and become more understanding her frustrations and fears would diminish. Blaming him for his lack of understanding becomes an effective weapon of guilt which she uses to get her own way. However, no matter how much a husband tries to fill this type of demand, a wife never feels it is enough for it is a bottomless pit of self-centredness. She never feels that her wants are met and it definitely does not fill the legitimate need she has.

## Demands

Here are some of the demands a woman can place upon her husband based on the wrong assumption that this is what she has a right to expect from headship.

- If only he would notice how overloaded I am and help me with the children, the dishes, the vacuuming, etc. Then I wouldn't be so irritable with him all the time.
- If only he would talk to me more - even if it was only during the T.V. ads instead of his constant channel switching. Surely I deserve a little attention here, as I've been working hard all day too!
- If only he was more romantic. If he would put more effort into our marriage I would be so much more responsive and loving and everything would be wonderful..
- Why isn't he more like so-and-so? Surely if he was more "spiritual" the family wouldn't have so many problems and I could submit more freely.

- Why can't he be more caring and cherishing when he speaks to me, instead of giving me a 'gruff' reply?

## The Gift of Headship

The most precious gift a husband can give his wife is the gift of his headship. This is indeed what every woman needs, as this is the order in which God can supply her and the whole family with grace.

The "understanding" referred to in the above scripture is the understanding of how to put headship into practical application. This is not always a smooth path and a wife can often use the guilt trip on her husband to avoid acknowledging and receiving his gift of headship.

So what are the legitimate needs that a woman has? She needs...

- **To be loved, valued, respected and cherished** - A man who respects his wife also makes sure that their children show a respectful attitude towards their mother. At times, this needs the direct input of fatherhood to them. If he doesn't value her, then how can their children give value and respect to their mother?

A woman does need to be shown in action and **word** that she is valued, and that she is not taken for granted. (This can come when simple words of praise and encouragement are given about the every day things).

A little romance does make a woman feel special and cherished. Time taken to plan events or give gifts that are especially for the wife makes her feel extremely special. The words "I love you" are a clear message of being loved and valued.

There are times when a woman's workload does become overwhelming and it is a wise and caring husband who gives his willing assistance with family and home responsibilities.

- **Direction setting and Decision making**

A wife needs the security that comes when a husband is willing to stand up and accept the responsibility of carrying his headship load. She needs a man who is confident in the knowledge that God is backing him up and so is not afraid to stand his ground when he makes a decision or sets directions. (This is often done in the face of his wife's fears and insecurities). Out of this faith action by the husband there comes the possibility of a progressive sense of tranquillity to the whole home.

- **Security**

The "umbrellas" of Headship cover the whole family.

There is a security that comes to a wife when a husband relates with other men as "heads of homes". When her husband has an appropriate place that he can go to when he is disgruntled or insecure, she is not put in a position of carrying these things herself. She cannot cope with his "dumping" and she certainly cannot teach him how to be "head". (A man is to look into the "face of Christ" as his head to learn the principles of headship. When a man looks into the "face of his wife" then he will lose his way, for she has no capacity in the area of headship. Her good ideas cannot replace the functioning of true headship, as this will only result in making her insecurities worse).

- **Male Perspective**

Because a wife is the centre of the home and is therefore surrounded with the activity of the whole family, it is easy to be overwhelmed with the sheer volume of information, activity and problems that come her way. It could be said that the female perspective tends to need to know everything, as well as have an opinion on everything. Add to this the whole emotional make-up of a woman, as well as the volume of details that flood in on her, and her view becomes quite coloured. This is why it is so essential for a woman to listen to her husband as he expresses quite clearly his perspective on life and on specific situations, particularly on family matters. This brings a clarity that releases her from her fears, angers and anxieties.

In summary, a woman's needs are clearly stated in Ephesians 5 where **the giving of headship** is equated with loving a wife in the same way as "Christ also loved the Church and gave himself for it". Surely this must be the most precious gift of all and one most highly valued.

Lorraine D. Hall  
April 1996

Retyped as a portable document file  
31st January, 2002 RA