

SESSION 2



**LOVING GOD'S WOMAN BY
PROVIDING FOR HER**

1. A Real Man Provides.

Ephesians 5:28-30:

“In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.”

A. There is a natural instinct of self-preservation in every man.

- Every man takes care of his body. He provides it food and drink, and he protects it from harm.
- God’s point in Ephesians 5 is that the man should do the same for God’s woman: provide for her and protect her.
- The man who leads like Christ meets the needs of his wife and family. A real man provides for those under his care.

2. A Man’s Provision is Physical.

A. The man provides and meets the physical needs of God’s woman: food, clothing, shelter, and the resources to buy the essentials.

*“The husband bears the **primary** responsibility to put bread on the table. Again the word **primary** is important. Both husbands and wives always work. But their normal spheres of work are man: breadwinner; wife: domestic manager, designer, nurturer. And that never has meant that there are no seasons in life when a wife cannot work outside the home or that the husband cannot share the domestic burdens...” - John Piper, This Momentary Marriage, 89-90*

- The man is responsible for providing a safe home environment, a reliable vehicle, reasonable clothing, and sufficient food for those under his care.
- Providing for God’s woman is such a serious responsibility the Lord warns us:

1 Timothy 5:8:

“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

- God has promised to meet your needs. In the same way God will meet His woman’s needs through you.

3. A Man’s Provision is Emotional.

A. Meeting her physical needs is not enough. God’s woman has emotional needs that must be met.

“You can be a millionaire and buy your wife things untold and leave her emotionally bankrupt.” – Anonymous

- King Jesus goes beyond our physical needs. He meets our emotional needs. He gives us joy and peace. He restores and gives rest to our souls.

- Like Jesus, we need to strive to meet the emotional needs of God's woman.

B. The Christ-like man provides emotional support, sincerely and often.

- Many women are dying inside for a compliment, some appreciation, and positive attention.
- Women need to be complimented often, held often, and loved with unconditional love.
- Research on female infidelity indicates that women do not usually fall for a man who is good-looking or "sexy" but for one who pays attention to her and is sensitive to her specific needs.

*"I want a man with a slow hand
I want a lover with an easy touch
I want somebody who will spend some time
Not come and go in a heated rush
I want somebody who will understand
When it comes to love, I want a slow hand"
- The Pointer Sisters*

C. What are a woman's most common emotional needs?

1. Women need love and adoration.
2. Women need partnership, and they want you to lead.
3. Women need support, encouragement, and respect.
4. Women need to feel safe and secure.
5. Women need to be heard.
6. Women need affirmation. As Proverbs 31:28 puts it:
"... her husband ... praises her."

4. A Man's Provision is Spiritual.

Ephesians 5:25-27:

"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ 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**, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish."

A. As men, we love God's woman with a sanctifying love.

- To sanctify means "to set apart to God".
- A man is to be a primary sanctifying influence of God, the channel of His grace in his wife's life.

*"The man is responsible for the spiritual well-being of his wife. Her sanctification is his responsibility. There is probably no male task that has been more neglected in our society than this one." (JBMW, Spring, 2016)
- R. C. Sproul*

B. This is probably a good time for each of us to ask ourselves, "Is my wife more like Christ because she is with me?"

- Do I hold her back spiritually?
- Is she a better mother?
- Is she a better daughter?
- Is she a better friend?
- There is no spiritual neutrality; your words, thoughts, actions, and inactions have consequences.
- You are pulling your wife towards King Jesus or pushing her away from Him.
- Push or pull? You decide.

C. How do we sanctify God's woman?

- The Word of God is the main instrument of sanctification. Jesus prayed, "*Sanctify them by the truth, your word is truth.*" (John 17:17)
Sanctification begins and ends with the Word of God.
 1. Read her the Word.
 - Work through a Bible reading plan. This can be as simple as 5-10 minutes of reading, a few minutes of conversation together, and a couple of minutes of prayer.
 2. Teach her the Word.
 - This can look different for all of us. But it needs to be tangible:
 - Be an example: live the Word in front of her.
 - Be an educator: guide her the Word.
 - Be an encourager: build her up in the Word.
 3. Choose a good church, and go every chance you get.
 - Find a church where the Word of God is faithfully preached and taught.
 - Men, see to it that your wife is being cleansed regularly in the water of the Word.
Hebrews 10:24-25:
"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

D. You're the spiritual leader.

- You cannot give your wife what you do not have. You cannot lead her where you are not going.
"To provide spiritual food for the family, you must know spiritual food. This means that a man must go hard after God. You can only lead spiritually if you are growing in your own knowledge of God and love for God." - John Piper
- Paul starts **Ephesians 5:25** with a call to husbands to love their wives sacrificially:

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ 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.”

- You can't sanctify her if you don't sacrifice for her.
- Notice the sacrifice has a goal – “that he might sanctify her ...”
- It will take time, focus, and discipline. You may have to give some things up.

According to a recent Nielsen Company audience report, the average man in the United States spends approximately 10 hours and 39 minutes each day in front of a screen.

iPhone. Netflix. Laptops. Video Games. 10 hours and 39 minutes a day.

*“ The greatest thing about television, social media, and video games is that we no longer have an excuse for not doing more for those we love...”
- Chris Harper*

Your Table Discussion Questions

1. As men, the world tells us we were created to consume. The Bible shows us that we were created to provide. What is your idea of providing for those you love? What influences helped shape this idea?
2. Today, we learned that a man's provision is *physical*, *emotional*, and *spiritual*. Which of these areas are you thriving in? Which areas do you need to grow in? Explain.
3. You are called to lead God's woman spiritually. Most men find this area of provision most difficult. Why do you think that is? Explain.

Your “BetterMan” Reflection:

Before our next session, take a moment this week to reflect on your notes, and then answer the following question: What is one thing you can do to help spiritually provide for God's woman? Write your answer in the space below, and then do it!