

SESSION 4



**LOVING GOD'S WOMAN BY
POINTING HER TO CHRIST**

1. You best love God's woman when you point her to Christ.

"Father, make of me a crisis man. Bring those I contact to decision. Let me not be a milepost on a single road; make me a fork, that men must turn one way or another on facing Christ in me." - Jim Elliot

A. Scripture teaches us that Jesus is the exact image of God.

- If we want to know what God looks like, all we have to do is look to Jesus. Jesus reflects and points us to God.

John 14:9:

"If you have seen me you have seen the Father..."

- In the same way, as a man, you image Christ to your wife.

B. If your wife wants to know what Jesus is like, all she should have to do is look to you.

"The greatest privilege in marriage is reflecting our Savior. And, in God's design, the privilege is equally great even though Jesus is reflected differently and uniquely by a husband and his wife." - P.J. Tibayan

- Your life is like a directional sign; you are either pointing your wife towards Jesus or away from Jesus.

2. Which way are you pointing?

A. It is never too late to change directions. You can start right now. Here's a road map.

- To be sure, you are not Jesus. Your words, thoughts, and actions all fall short of His. But, this cannot keep you from trying. Perfection is not the goal—progress is.
- Point your wife towards Jesus with sacrifice, not selfishness. Jesus gave up his life so that we might have life.

1 Peter 3:18:

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring [you] to God"

- A "self-centered husband" is a contradiction in terms. By God's design and decree, a real man sacrifices for his wife.

B. Sacrifice your time.

WE TIME > ME TIME

- Studies and surveys repeatedly rank "time with my spouse" as a woman's top emotional need.
- This involves togetherness.
- Sacrificing time for your wife does not happen by accident. This time must be thought out, planned for, and executed on.
- Consistency is key. The more you do it, the more it becomes your habit.

- Make dating your wife a priority and a regular event.
- Plan weekend and week-long getaways—just you and her.
- When you're home, be home. Be present and attune to her needs.
- Practice active listening.

A study from the University of Missouri shows that 45% of communication is listening, yet the average person remembers only 25% of the information they hear. Imagine being in a relationship and failing to hear 75% of what's said to you.

Active listening is making a conscious effort to hear, understand, and retain the information being relayed to you. It is a deep understanding of what you hear as you pick up on the speaker's intent, content, and emotion. Active listening requires paying attention. If you're watching NetFlix or scrolling through TikTok on your phone while someone is talking, you're not actively listening.

C. Sacrifice your wants.

- This looks like elevating her preferences above yours.
- When you practice putting your wife's needs above your own, she learns to trust you. She knows you value her needs above your own.

Philippians 2:3-4:

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

3. Embrace Leadership and Reject Laziness.

A. You point your wife to Jesus when you lead her well.

- Adam and Eve were created in the image of God, and by God's design, men and women have equal value but different roles and responsibilities. “Both Adam and Eve were created in God's image, equal before God as persons and distinct in their manhood and womanhood (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:18).” - Danvers Statement
“Distinctions in masculine and feminine roles are ordained by God as part of the created order, and should find an echo in every human heart (Genesis 2:18, 21-24; 1 Corinthians 11:7-9; 1 Timothy 2:12-14).” - Danvers Statement
- Scripture teaches that the man is the head of the woman, much like Christ is the head of the church...

1 Corinthians 11:3:

“But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.”

B. A real man is a leader.

- He can abdicate.
 - He can abuse.
 - He can appropriate.
- To appropriate leadership is:
- to understand it in light of God's Word.
 - to embrace it as God's call.
 - to live it out with Godly character.

C. We have forgotten that leadership is beneficial.

- Rightly held authority is not toxic.
- The culture around us is so focused on the abuse of leadership that we've forgotten the value of leadership.
- In 1 Kings 10, the Queen of Sheba is blown away by Solomon's wisdom and riches. So great is Solomon's reign and authority that the Queen says, *"Happy are your men! Happy are your servants, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom"* (vs. 8).
- Wise rule is the precondition for true happiness. There is a great lesson here:
- When you lead your wife and home well, you are life-giving. You produce joy, peace, light, and love.

2 Samuel 23:3b-4:

"When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth."

- Authority and power in and of themselves are good. Authority rightly employed is a pathway to joy.
- Lead well, and things go well!

4. Point your wife to Jesus by knowing her.

A. Jesus knows you intimately, from your innermost desires to the number of hairs on your head. Jesus can read you like a book.

- Similarly, you should know your wife. A man best loves God's woman when he is actively studying her.
- When the Apostle Peter says, "[H]usbands, live with your wives in an understanding way" (1 Peter 3:7), he is saying we are to know who she is.
- Get a PhD in knowing your wife. Become sensitive to your wife's needs:
 - Know her physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.
 - Know her strengths and weaknesses.
 - Know her joys and sorrows.
 - Know her wants and dreams.
 - Know her hurts and fears.
- Peter is calling husbands to be thoughtful and respectful. Men are commanded to nourish and cherish their wives (Ephesians 5:25-29).

- It isn't what you get out of marriage but what you put into it that brings glory to God.

B. It's time to interview your wife.

Q1 - What needs do you have that I am currently not meeting?

Q2 - What are three things you want for your life moving forward?

Q3 - How do I help you get there?

Q4 - How has God uniquely gifted you?

Q5 - How can I encourage you?

Q6 - What are your three greatest disappointments?

Q7 - How do I help you heal?

Q8 - Where am I winning as a husband?

Q9 - Where am I falling short?

Q10 - What's one thing I haven't asked that you wish I would?

"You're not supposed to treat her [your wife] generically — you're supposed to treat her uniquely." - Randy Stinson

Your Table Discussion Questions

1. Jesus images God to us. You reflect Jesus to your wife. How are you doing in pointing God's woman to Christ?

2. Where have you abdicated your leadership as a man/husband? Where have you abused it? Where are you rightly appropriating leadership?

3. You learned that a "self-centered husband" is a contradiction in terms. By God's design and decree, a real man sacrifices for his wife. In what areas in your life is selfishness manifesting itself? How do we fight against the dragon of self?

Your "BetterMan" Reflection

Before our next session, take a moment this week to reflect on your notes and interview your wife this week. Create a safe space and let her know that the more honest she is, the better equipped you'll be to serve her.