



Happy Wife, Happy Life

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Ephesians 5:25–29

1. Communication

2. Leadership

3. Security

What is the Holy Spirit saying to me through this message?

All scripture is from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.



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Series: Broken – Repairing the Family

Session: Happy Wife Happy Life

I. Introduction – Ephesians 5

This is a series on the family, but we are going to take the next 2 weeks and talk about marriage. The title for today's lesson is *Happy Wife, Happy Life*. The lesson for next week is *Happy Husband, Happy Home*, so all us husbands have to suck it up and deal with today because our wives are going to get an hear full next week.

Ephesians 5:25-29

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church.

I don't know if you caught on to this guys but about 3 times it says that the way you love your wife should be the same way that Jesus loves the Church. The example and pattern that we have for loving our wives is how Jesus loved the Church. That's the way that we love them. We need to understand that and lay down our lives for our wives.

It is true, *happy wife, happy life*. If you want joy and happiness in this world, lay down your life for Jesus, and lay down your life for your wife.

When a person says that he/she has a happy marriage, they are really saying that their needs are being met. I'm in a happy marriage, why, because my needs are being met. God created men and women with needs that actually their spouses can meet. So when he/she says that they are in an unhappy marriage, they are really saying that their needs are not being met.

So I'm going to give you 3 needs that your wife has that God actually designed you to meet. You can actually meet all 3 of these needs! But the only way you can do that is to lay your life down for your wife.

II. COMMUNICATION

Men, you have to lay down your life in this area. You have to decide to learn how to communicate.

Let me go ahead and help you right now: There is a word that you have to drop from your vocabulary when you get married and that is the word: **fine**.

How was your day? **Fine**, ok that will not work.

Ladies do not want the headlines, and they don't want the bottom lines, they want the full story. Has your wife ever asked you:

- How was your day?
- Where were you?
- Where did you go?
- Who did you see?
- What took so long?
- What did he say?

When a guy asks you how your day is, what do you say? **Fine**, and that would have been the end of the conversation. That will not work with your wife! She wants word for word about your day and thought for thought. They want to know what you were thinking at the time you said it. This is an area that we must lay our lives down in guys because this is one of your wife's needs.

Communication is a need that your wife has. She needs to communicate and the reason why is because this is how she connects with you.

When she says how was your day you need to say something like this:

- At 6:32am I opened my eyes.
- I had a little headache, I think it was because of the pollen in the air.
- I was feeling a little stressed because of all the meetings I was going to have that day.

Listen to me; you just got a lot of points because you used the word **feeling**. Your wife loves the word **feeling**. She will fall in love with you when you tell her how you were feeling.

And guys, for a while, you'll just have to make up things. Because ladies, when you ask your husband how did you feel about that, and he says I don't know, we are not lying. We really don't know!

The Pastor had a friend who had been married for 25 years, and he decided to sell his company after 20 years. His wife asked him how he felt about selling his company and he said, I don't know. Are you upset with it, no. She said yes you are. The more the Pastor's friend thought about it, the more he realized that he was upset!

But that isn't the way we think. Wives listen to me; men come from the factory emotionally unassembled. We have all the wires, but they aren't connected. That is your job! Here's what your wife will do:

Wife: Now your father didn't come to your championship baseball game?

Husband: No. (He has no emotion)

Wife: And the other fathers were at the game?

Husband: Yeah (Still no emotion)

Here's what she's doing, she is taking experience, the wire of experience, and she is moving it closer to the feeling. And you don't even know she is doing this.

Wife: And you hit the championship homerun and your dad wasn't there to see it?

Husband: No

Wife: But all the other fathers....

And all of a sudden the husband will feel a sharp zap, a sharp pain come across his whole entire body: and your wife says now that was a feeling! Pretty soon you'll cry during movies. That is your job ladies!

There's a story the pastor tells of a couple who came into his office and he asks the wife how she feels about the particular situation they are going through. Before she even speaks 1 word her face goes sour and you can just see the many emotions on her face. Then the Pastor turns to the husband and asks him to talk about his childhood. He says well when my mom and dad had me they couldn't really afford me and didn't want me so they threw me out the hospital window (no emotion). You say your parent's threw you out the window? Yeah I was found by a pack of wild dogs and they raised me (he has no emotion when he's telling him this story). Did that hurt you? Oh no I was fine. It was only on the 1st floor of the hospital. No I'm not talking about falling out of the window; I'm talking about the fact that your parents abandoned you. Did that hurt you? No I liked the dogs. There was this one dog named Harry, boy the stories I could tell you about me and Harry. This is just the way men are! Ladies, it's your job!

Men, if you just start talking, you'll get wired up! Once you learn to connect with a woman, you really connect with God. This is because marriage is an image of God.

Do you realize that man was the only thing God created that wasn't good? He created the sun, the moon, the stars, and animals and God said those were good. But God created man and said it wasn't good that man was alone. I don't know if Adam was running around in the garden with a pair of scissors or what but God looked down and said that it wasn't good.

If you lay down your life for your wife, you will have a *happy wife*, and a *happy life*.

III. LEADERSHIP

Another need of a woman is leadership. This isn't domination. The most destructive homes, according to spiritual and secular studies, have a dominant male/female. Another word for leadership is initiation. Leadership isn't domination but initiation. All leadership is initiation.

That is what God does with us. God initiates. You'll be driving down the road, praying to God, or in your quiet time and He suddenly speaks to you. He initiates leadership.

We are supposed to lead our wives like Christ leads the Church. Could you imagine God leading you like you lead your wife? What if He was dominating, and put you down, and made fun of you, and was critical of you and always complaining? What if he was an absent leader? Guys, what if you went to God and asked him about transferring to a particular job and He said, "Beats me, do whatever you want". Or what if you went to Him and asked how to raise your kids and He said "Psh, I don't know, talk about children problems, I've got children problems". What if He was absent to you? That isn't God. He gives us leadership.

That is all your wife wants, she wants you to take on leadership in the home. There are 3 ways your wife wants to be led:

1. Spiritual Matters

Lead and go to a small group. Get up and make your family go to Church and Sunday school. Pray with your wife.

2. Children

She wants you to take the initiative when it comes to the children's schooling, activities, what they become involved in, their friends, their relationships, and discipline.

3. Romance

She doesn't want to have to remind you of her birthday. Romance is meeting a need before it is spoken. If you and your wife are at the store and she points out something she likes, the next day it better be at the house waiting on her. This is romance. It doesn't have to be expensive either. But in order to be a leader when it comes to romance, you need to be a good leader in your finances; you need to become a good money manager. Get on a budget and remember that financial decisions are math decisions, not emotional ones.

Here's how to have a happy wife: When your wife comes to you and starts batting those eyes and asks for a new set of furniture because your friends just bought a nice set say to her "Of course I want to get you new furniture, baby, but let's see what Mr. Budget says...Mr. Budget say nooooo...ohhh I'm so sorry, I would buy you furniture but Mr. Budget say nooooo".

You're the good guy and Mr. Budget is the bad guy.

IV. SECURITY

This is the #1 need of your wife. When you talk to your wife in insecure terms, she will not hear you. If you say anything that makes her feel insecure, she can't hear you. It should always be in a secure manner...

I'm going to take care of you...

I'm going to be there when you wake up in the morning...

I'm going to lay down my life for you...

I'm going to do whatever it takes to take care of you and our family...

We've talked a little bit about being a good money manager. This is an area where you need to show your wife that she can be secure. Don't ever be late on a payment, don't ever go over budget, and don't ever let your wife be worried about finances.

We are supposed to lay down our lives for our wives. A man can take care of his family.

Your wife needs emotional security. Jesus gives us emotional security by telling us that He will never leave us, He will never forsake us, He is constant, faithful, and will always be there for you. This is the emotional security your wife needs from you. Why do we love Jesus? It's not because He sits on a recliner in heaven and barks orders; it's because He left heaven and laid down His life for us. If you lay down your life for your wife, you will have a *happy wife*, and a *happy life*!



Happy Wife, Happy Life

Focus A great marriage is one in which the needs of each spouse are recognized and met by the other in a biblical way.

Open What is your favorite romantic movie (“chick-flick”)? Why?

Read God designed marriage to be a reflection of His image on earth. The Bible tells husbands to love their wives “as *Christ loves the Church*” and to lay down their lives for her (Ephesians 5:25–29). Part of laying down one’s life for another is to recognize and honor their needs and desires, especially when they are different than yours.

It is important for a husband to communicate with his wife in a loving and connecting way. She also needs and wants him to lead her lovingly, especially in spiritual matters, the children and romance. A woman’s foremost need is for security. When husbands nourish and cherish their wives just as Jesus nourishes and cherishes His Church, the result is a happy, secure, honoring wife.

- Talk**
1. Think about a couple who have been married for a long time that you believe have a happy, biblical marriage. What do you think makes their marriage great?
 2. [Men] Do you tend to be a person of few words or many words? How has this affected your marriage?

3. [Women] What is something your husband has done that made you feel cherished/special? What was it about what he did or said that made you feel that way?
4. Leadership is not domination, but taking initiative. What does taking initiative communicate to those you are leading (in marriage, parenting or at work)? What does dominant leadership communicate? What about passivity?
5. Why is praying together such a powerful thing in marriage? Why is it more powerful when the husband leads the way?

Live

1. [Men] What do you appreciate most about your wife? What are one or two ways that she has helped you or affected you in a positive way?
2. Pair off as couples. Husbands, take a minute or two to encourage your wife. Tell her one or two things that you love about her.

Pray

Thank God for your spouse and your marriage. Ask Him to show both of you how to recognize and meet your spouse's needs more readily and willingly. Thank Him that *"two are better than one"* and ask Him to work in and through your marriages in a more powerful way.