

# What Wives Wish Husbands Knew

## Session 4—Romance

### “I Wish You Knew What Romance Means To Me”

For most of us romance is synonymous with sex...that is, as long as the “us” in the sentence is a man. Our wives want us to know that romance and sex, while connected, for them aren’t synonymous, and sometimes are completely different and shouldn’t even be thought of at the same time... But they want us to know the connection is there, and it’s real...and if we want a sexually engaged wife we have to learn how to become romantically sensitive, inventive, active, involved and accomplished.

#### QUOTE

“Assuming that sexual expression is irresistible, like a flood, many couples inevitably find themselves standing before a minister to be married. Minister: ‘Do you take this woman with all her immaturity, self-centeredness, nagging, tears, and tension to be your wife, forever?’ The dumb ox, temporarily hypnotized by the prospect of being allowed to sleep with her every night, mumbles, ‘I do.’ Then the preacher asks the starry-eyed bride, ‘Do you take this man with all his lust, moods, indifference, immaturity and lack of discipline to be your husband, forever?’ She thinks that ‘forever’ means all of next week, because she has never experienced one month of tediousness, responsibility, or denial of her wishes, so she chirps, ‘I do,’ in the thought that she has now become a woman. Then the patient minister parrots, ‘By the authority committed unto me as a minister of Christ, I pronounce you man and wife...’ As he does, he prays a silent prayer for forgiveness, for he knows he lies. They are not now husband and wife and he knows that few of them ever will be. They are now legally permitted to breed, fuss, bully, spend each other’s money, and be held responsible for each other’s bills. It is now legal for them to destroy each other, so long as they don’t do it with a gun or a club. And the minister goes home wondering if there isn’t a more honest way to make a living.”<sup>1</sup>

## I. Romance 101—The Emotional Connection, Admiration & Appreciation

### Song of Solomon 4:1-5

How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes behind your veil are doves. Your *hair* is like a flock of goats descending from Mount Gilead.

<sup>2</sup> Your *teeth* are like a flock of sheep just shorn, coming up from the washing. Each has its twin; not one of them is alone.

<sup>3</sup> Your *lips* are like a scarlet ribbon; your *mouth* is lovely. Your *temples* behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate.

<sup>4</sup> Your *neck* is like the tower of David, built with elegance; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors.

<sup>5</sup> Your two *breasts* are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle that browse among the lilies.

You know, of course, that there’s a lot more that’s different about women and men than simply the obvious physical differences in our anatomies. We’re different in regard to just about...everything. The wisdom displayed here is the emotional connection...

- He tells her how beautiful her eyes are and how she’s got *hair like a goat* (4:1).

<sup>4</sup> Reprinted from *HIS*, student magazine of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, 1974

- It was a good thing to say 2800 years ago...but I don't recommend you say it tonight.
- But you get the point. He was complimenting her 'do! Wise man.
- I love the part about her teeth—, *none of 'em are alone & they're all washed* (4:2).
  - She's got all her teeth and she uses mouthwash!
  - Some things never change and bad breath is one of them.
- He then describes her *red lips*, her *lovely face*, and her *elegant neck* (4:3-4)...
- Then he says her *breasts* are like fawns—gorgeous (4:5).<sup>2</sup>

She's removing her clothes in the presence of a man.<sup>3</sup> That's not an easy thing for most women. In fact, without deep emotional connection it's traumatic. Her naked body is being looked at for the first time; only by the man she chose to marry and not until their wedding night. That's commitment. That's trust. That's great! That's romance.

As her husband moves down her body with his eyes, it's obvious that he appreciates her beauty and it's obvious that he understands how to make his wife know how special she is to him.

She isn't simply a toy with which he will sate his own lust. She is his wife and he handles their first sexual encounter as a gentleman, with grace and wisdom.

## II. Romance 201—Time & Timing

There are two points to make here...

- It takes a lot of time to make sure the right time is a fine time...

### QUOTE

"It's not about money, jewelry, where we live, or how much we have; it's only time, and it always has been, and I don't think he's ever understood that..." (CE)

### QUOTE

"Be a passion partner with me about our life together, show me passion for things other than sex." (CE)

### QUOTE

"Foreplay begins in the morning, extends throughout the day, and climaxes at night. If you'll start the foreplay in the morning when we wake up, I'll make sure it climaxes before you go to sleep.

Have no words of wisdom here you take it and run with it, but \_\_\_\_\_ told me that if I would wake up being nice and stay that way through the rest of the day, she would have sex with me until I couldn't stand up." (CLBIII)

- Timing is all about pace...

<sup>2</sup>"The breasts are compared to a twin pair of young gazelles in respect of their equality and youthful freshness, and the bosom on which they raise themselves is compared to a meadow covered with lilies, on which the twin pair of young gazelles feed." Franz Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, n.d.), 71.

<sup>3</sup>"The imagery suggests her breasts were uncovered." Joseph C. Dillow, *Solomon on Sex* (Nashville: Nelson, 1977), 75.

## Song of Solomon 4:6

*Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of incense.*

“Until the day breaks” (v. 6) describes a man who, in spite of his own arousal and excitement, proceeds carefully and slowly in bed, treating his wife with patience and tenderness. For most men that kind of attention requires studied discipline, because it doesn’t come naturally to us:

### ILLUSTRATION

- When is a guy ready for sex? Right now.
- Where is a guy ready for sex? Anywhere.
- What’s necessary for a guy to be ready for sex? Opportunity.
- What atmosphere does a guy need to be ready for sex? Oxygen.
  
- What’s necessary from the female perspective? Everything! Lighting, music, candles...
- It’s altogether different for women.
- It’s not just you.
- Most women, by God’s creative design, need to be romanced in order for them to feel sexually attracted.
  
- Men are after the experience; women want the process.
- Men focus on the destination; women enjoy on the journey.
- Men are dynamite; women are fuses.
- Men are sprinters; women are marathoners.
- Men are microwaves; women are crook pots.
  
- Your wife needs you to treat her with gentleness, kindness, tenderness, patience and understanding.
- Your wife needs you to take care of life outside the bedroom before she feels alive inside the bedroom.
- Your wife needs to know that you, her husband, will never do anything to hurt her, use her or abuse her—especially in your bedroom.
- Your wife needs to know that within the confines of your bedroom she finds the security & protection from a man who would die before he would allow her to be hurt or harmed.
- Your wife needs you to treat her like a china doll.
- If we aren’t good at love in the kitchen we can’t be good lovers in the bedroom.
- First we have to express love; then we can make love.
- Otherwise sexual relationships are no different from alley cats mating at the city dump.

### QUOTE

1. She likes for me to do things that let her know that I am thinking of her, and not just for sex.
2. She wants me to spend quality/quantity time with her, and not just for sex.
3. She wants me to be affectionate, and not just for sex.
4. She wants me to give her “laser beam” attention, and not just for sex.
5. She wants me to have meaningful conversation with her, and not just for sex. **(RDM)**

### III. Romance 301—Keep it positive.

#### Song of Solomon 4:7

All beautiful you are, my darling; *there is no flaw in you*.

I'm sure she had some flaws—but he couldn't see them. And if he did see any, he's got way too much class to say anything about them. That's solid advice.

- Warning! Negative Words are Hazardous to Your Marriage.
  - Here's a promise—negative comments to our mates will not produce positive results.
  - I know there are times when we have to sit down and have serious discussions; but even then there are ways to communicate that do not include personal attacks.
  - Until you figure that one out you aren't going to be happy in your marriage and you aren't going to have a mutually rewarding sexual relationship.
  
  - We often wrongly assume that the best way to get our wife to change is to criticize her.
  - It never works.
  
  - Conversely, we also wrongly assume that using encouraging words will enable what we consider inappropriate behavior.
    - Again, that's seldom the case.
    - You'll be entering the game as a teammate rather than as an opponent if you learn how to properly encourage with your words and attitude.
  
  - Think I've missed this one?
    - If you use critical words toward your spouse in order to bring about desired change, let me ask you one question:
    - How's that working out for you?
  
- Promise! Positive Words will Invigorate Your Marriage.

This next part is fabulous...

#### SS 4:8-10

Come with me from Lebanon, my bride, come with me from Lebanon. Descend from the crest of Amana, from the top of Senir, the summit of Hermon, from the lions' dens and the mountain haunts of the leopards. <sup>9</sup> You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride; you have *stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace.*

<sup>10</sup> How delightful is your love, my sister, my bride! *How much more pleasing is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume than any spice!*

He's volunteering to provide her with all the security she needs for the rest of her life. Some of that security has to do with the home they'll share. But more of it has to do with the life they'll share...

- *One glance from your eyes, and my heart belonged to you forevermore.*
- There's no one he'd rather be with; and there's nothing that brings him greater pleasure than being with her; not even a night out with the boys.
- Make me believe there's anyone who wouldn't want that kind of marriage.
- I don't believe it for a second.
- And if you thought you could have a marriage like that you'd give everything you have for it.

- The truth is, you can have a marriage like that—if both of you want it badly enough to work on it for the rest of your lives.

#### **IV. Romance 401—Stages of Intimacy**

(what our wives want us to know about romance)

##### Stages of Intimacy

- Hand to hand
- Hand to shoulder
- Hand to waist
- Hand to face
- Hand to hip
- Mouth to face
- Mouth to mouth
- Hand to body
- Mouth to body
- Body to body

##### **Conclusion**

If you'll pay attention to this, one of these days you're going to remember who told you all of this and you're going to call me up and offer to buy my lunch—and I'm going to accept. I'm wrong a lot—but not about this. On this one I'm right on target.