7 BASIC NEEDS OF A WIFE

- Use With Audio Commentary by Cliff Palmer -

*Instructions: This study is for the HUSBAND ONLY.*

The wife should study “The Seven Basic Needs Of A Husband”, not this study. Using the accompanying recording (available at our website - www.southheightsbaptist.com/CliffPalmer_index.html), follow the audio through, filling in the blanks and adding additional notes as the Lord leads you to.

Foundation Bible Verse For This Study:

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it.”

- Ephesians 5:25

**THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY:**

1. **TO MAKE HAPPY HOMES HAPPIER.**
   
   Some homes are extremely happy. All can be improved. However, it is possible that there is a husband represented here who, though he says he is happy, is filled with animosity, anger, resentment, etc.

2. **TO SOLIDIFY CRUMBLING HUSBAND/WIFE RELATIONSHIPS.**
   
   Some marriages are very shaky. They are crumbling, and need to be shored up.

   *MAKE AS YOUR #1 GUIDING PRINCIPLE THAT -*

   **DIVORCE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION!**

   Every marriage IS repairable.

   Just remember: though God loves us, Malachi 2 says he hates divorce. So - let’s lock the divorce door, throw away the key, and purpose in our hearts that we will in no way allow ourselves to even consider doing something God hates.

3. **TO AVOID THE FINAL BREAKUP OF THE HOME.**
   
   Some marriages are - right now - on the verge of total collapse. While it is impossible, humanly speaking, to guarantee that a marriage will not collapse, implementing these principles has often rescued homes that were breaking up.

4. **TO LAY A FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE STUDIES OF THIS TYPE.**
   
   We want to be able to provide further materials such as this to assist Christian marriage couples in their relationship with God, each other, their families, and their church.

5. **TO TRY TO “PUT A FENCE” AROUND THE TOP OF THE CLIFF INSTEAD OF RUNNING AN AMBULANCE SERVICE AT THE BOTTOM OF IT.**
   
   Most marriage problems can be avoided, IF a Christian couple will put into practice biblical principles for marriage. Starting early (or as soon as you learn them - it’s never too late to begin) will help stave off future catastrophe’s.
1. **IF YOU ARE LOST, GET SAVED.**

   Seek the Lord. An unsaved man will get very little from this study that he will be able to apply.

2. **IF YOU ARE SAVED, ENTER INTO THIS STUDY WITH ALL YOUR HEART.**

   **DON'T LET -**
   
   * Pride  * Position  * Wealth  * Anything else.

   **KEEP YOU FROM THE GOAL OF BEING A GODLY HUSBAND!**

   There is not one Christian man that can not improve. These principles will help you to do so.

3. **UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS NOT THE FINAL AUTHORITY IN THESE MATTERS. THESE OUTLINES AND THIS INFORMATION IS PRESENTED FROM MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF MANY YEARS AS A PASTOR AND MARRIAGE COUNSELOR - THESE ARE THE THINGS ABOUT HELPING MARRIAGES THAT GOD HAS REVEALED TO ME.**

   ● This study is a compilation of study from various sources over the years.

   ● The material presented herein has been successfully applied to thousands of marriages down through the years.

**SUGGESTIONS FROM CLIFF PALMER REGARDING THIS MATERIAL:**

1. The first thing your wife is going to say to you after you read this material and listen to the audio of Cliff Palmer teaching will probably be something like, “Well, honey, did yo listen to it - ALL OF IT? What did he say?” Followed by, “When are you going to change your ways and become the type of husband that I need you to be?”

   **Here’s Your Answer:**

   “Well, I don't have it all put together yet, but I've seen some areas where I am lacking. Right now, I'm not sure I'm going to be able to do it all, but give me some time to re-think this, and get it together.”

2. Your discussion of what you will learn reading this material and listening to the audio could result in one of the greatest fights you and your wife have ever had, but it doesn’t have to be.

3. Take your time to review this material more than once. Get up 30 minutes early for the next 30 days to read and re-read, listen and re-listen, study, and meditate on this material.

4. **Then**, you can construct your own plan to implement the things you will learn from this study.

5. **Don't try to do all seven of these principles at once** - prioritize them, and start them one at a time.

6. Tell your wife that you will need her help (somewhere along the line) as you begin applying these things.

7. Don't be disappointed if your wife doesn't cooperate 100% at first - it is going to take some time for her to believe you are serious.

8. **Don't start, if you don't plan to follow through!**
CLIFF PALMER’S OBSERVATIONS ABOUT HUSBANDS:

1. Many husbands take their wives for granted.
   Some rarely think about their wives, except when they need them, or to criticize them.

2. Men assume too much in regard to their wives -
   - We assume they are happy because they say nothing.
   - The truth is: There is many a wife whose husband with a heart that is broken because of neglect, loneliness, because of his “I don't care” attitude.

3. Two things that are the hardest things in the world for a man to say -
   A. “I'm Was Wrong” (or “I’m sorry”).
      - We have been brainwashed into thinking that women equate humility with weakness.
      - Men build their monuments to the fighters in life, yet the world's role-models are very poor. Christians are not to build their monuments to the fighters, but to the meek.
      - Most women respond to humility in a man, where they will NOT respond to pride.
      - If a husband will go out of his way to please her, if he will only get rid of his pride and be willing to say “I made a mistake.” - she will respond to him like he can not even imagine.
   B. “I Love You.”
      - A Husband must verbalize his love for his wife DAILY.
      - During the time of courtship, the young man can't keep from telling the girl he loves her. But, once the wedding vows are exchanged, the lips seal and he stops saying it.

TELL HER YOU LOVE HER REPEATEDLY EVERY DAY!

NOTES:
I. SHE NEEDS THE STABILITY AND DIRECTION OF A SPIRITUAL LEADER.

- EVERY WOMAN HAS CERTAIN NEEDS WHICH WILL ONLY BE MET BY STRONG SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP.

- SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IS NOT ONLY WHERE A MAN IS SPIRITUALLY; IT IS WHAT DIRECTION HE IS GOING.

- THERE ARE FOUR MAJOR MARKS OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP THAT A WIFE LOOKS FOR IN HER HUSBAND:

  1. A __________________________ TO SEEK THE LORD. Your wife needs to know that you delight in the Lord and are getting direction from Him. This comes from a consistent, growing relationship with the Lord.

    *Evidences in your life that show to your wife that you desire to seek the Lord:*

    1. Regular Time In God’s ________________________ .

    2. Consistent Memorization Of ________________________ .

    3. Faithfulness In _______________________________ .

    4. Regular Church ________________________________ .

    5. Reading ____________________________ Books.

    6. Fellowshipping With Sincere ________________________ .

    7. Discussion Of ____________________________ Matters.
2. **CONVICTIONS BASED ON**

- As your wife sees you establishing God's standards, she will be motivated to submit to your leadership and set similar standards in her own life.

List the evidences of Scriptural convictions which you have or propose to have:

1. Demonstrating Love For God By _______________________
   Your Wife (see I John 4:20).

2. Avoiding Any Actions Or Activities That Might Cause Your Wife, Children, Or Others To ___________________________ (see Romans Ch. 14).

3. Purpose To Make Your Home A Center Of _______________ Learning And Living (see Ps. 101:2).

3. **DETERMINATION TO**

- Your consistent obedience to scriptural standards provides the strength and example your wife needs to obey God and you.

List the OBSTACLES which hinder you from consistently obeying God's standards. Determine steps to overcome them:

1. Influence And Attention To _____________________ (or the internet/computers/games, etc.)

2. Influence Of Wrong ______________________________.

3. Losing Your ________________________________.

4. Wrong ________________________________.

5. Guilt From Past ______________________________.

6. Lack Of ________________________________.

7. Bondage To Enslaving ________________________.

8. _______________________ And Willfulness.
4. \textbf{IN WHATEVER IS DONE}.

- The evidence of being led and motivated by God’s Spirit is having the fruit of the Spirit in all your actions. The first fruit is love.

There is \textbf{never} a reason or an excuse for a husband to ever act or react to his wife in any other manner than in love!

\textbf{HOMEWORK:} List the ways in which you are demonstrating love to your wife. Then, ask her to explain which ones do or do not express love to her and why.

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

II. \textbf{SHE NEEDS TO KNOW THAT SHE IS MEETING VITAL NEEDS IN YOUR LIFE AND WORK THAT NO OTHER WOMAN CAN MEET.}

\textbf{INSIGHTS -}

1. \textbf{A Wife Must Feel \___________ To Her Husband.}

- Telling her she is special isn’t enough. She wants to know \textbf{HOW} she’s special. God made her to be a “help mate” for her husband.

2. \textbf{She Needs To Know That The Needs She Is Meeting Are Important To Him.}

The more important they are, the more he will praise and appreciate her. Consider what life without her would be like.

3. \textbf{The Most Devastating Action Of A Husband Is to Give One of Her Special \___________ To Some Other Woman to Do.}

- Adding insult to injury would be to praise the other woman for doing it.

4. \textbf{The Scourge Of A Woman Is \___________}. Jealousy is fear of being displaced. \textit{Continually reassure your wife of your love for her.}
5. **The Tendency Of A Man Is Not To Share His Needs With His Wife.** He wants her to admire him as a success. But before honor must come humility.

- **He will win her love more by sharing his specific failures than by reporting his successes.** So - don’t be afraid to admit to her that you have failed to become the kind of husband God wants you to be, and enlist her help in becoming the kind of husband God wants you to become.

6. **He Must Not Only List His Needs, But Teach Her Precisely What She Can Do to Help Meet Them.**

List needs that your wife is now meeting that no other woman can meet.

1. She Is the Basis of Your Illustration to Others of Christ’s Love for His \_______________ (see Ephesians Chapter 5).

2. She Provides The Potential For Power In Your \______________ (See I Peter 3:7).

3. She Is An \_______________ System Against Other \______________ With Wrong Motives.

4. She Is A \_______________ Of Your Present Spiritual Condition.

5. She Can Give You The Joy Of A Physical Relationship Without \______________.

6. She Is A Safeguard To Your Hasty \_______________, Because Of Her Needs Of Security And Consistency.

7. She Instills Proper \_______________ In The Children. *It is important that she instill in your children the right attitudes and convictions you hold.*

8. She Discerns The \_______________ Needs Of The Children.
III. SHE NEEDS TO SEE AND HEAR THAT YOU CHERISH HER AND THAT YOU DELIGHT IN HER AS A PERSON.

INSIGHTS -

1. The Key Word Here Is to ______________________ Your Wife. Most men don’t know what this means or how to do it.
   - To cherish your wife is to see great value in her as a person that you want to protect and praise to others.

2. It Is Important for Your Wife to Know That She Is A Vital ______________________ Of Your World. It is equally important for her to know that your delight in her goes beyond the things she can do for you.

   HOMEWORK: List the character qualities and personality traits that first attracted you to your wife:
   
   □
   □
   □
   □
   □
   □
   □
   □
   □
   □

3. She Needs To ________________ You Rehearse The Character Qualities, Personality Traits, And Family Qualities That Attracted You to Her And The Evidences Of God's Leading That Brought You Together.

4. She Wants To Know That These Qualities Are Still ________________ To You.

   HOMEWORK: List the unchangeable physical features, family circumstances, and past experiences of your wife which she finds difficult to accept:
   
   Divorced parents □
   Poverty □
   Lack of Education □
   Retarded family member □
   Physical handicap □
   Past failures, etc. □
5. The Growing _____________________ That You Cherish Your Wife
   Is Your Ability to Take Unchangeable Past Experiences, Physical Features,
   And Personality Characteristics Which She Has Difficulty Accepting And
   Turn Them Into Praiseworthy Attributes In Her.

6. As Your Wife Learns To View These Things From God's Perspective, She Will
   Not Only Develop An Inner Radiance, But A Significant Life
   __________________________ For Your Children And Others.

7. Determine How Each Of These Items Has Produced Or Strengthened
   Attitudes And Qualities In Your Wife Which You Admire And Which Also
   Challenge You To Spiritual __________________________.

   Examples:
   • Past Failures
   • A genuine humility and spirit of gratefulness for God's mercy.
   • Family Poverty
   • Appreciation for provisions and frugality in buying.
   • Physical Handicap
   • Greater dependence on God and determination.

   ✤ YOU CANNOT OVER-PRAISE YOUR WIFE! ✤

IV. SHE NEEDS TO KNOW THAT YOU UNDERSTAND HER BY
   PROTECTING HER IN AREAS OF HER LIMITATIONS.

INSIGHTS -

1. Every Wife Has a Deep Need to Be ____________________________.
   Most men think they understand their wives, but they really don't.

2. Basic To Understanding Your Wife Is Knowing That She Wants
   ____________________________ That Come From Concern For Her,
   Not Neglect Of Her.

3. She Wants You To Be __________________________ Of Her Spiritual, Mental,
   Emotional, And Physical Strengths And Weaknesses And To Have The
   Wisdom And Courage To Provide LOVING But Firm Direction So That She
   Will Not Fail By Going Beyond Her Limitations.
4. Occasionally, Your Wife Will Ask You For Something That She Doesn’t Really Want. She Is Testing To See If You Are Perceptive To Her Real Needs And Dangers. If You Give Her Whatever She Wants, She Will Become ____________________.

5. Your ___________________ Priority Is To Know Your Wife So Well That You Understand When To Be Firm And When To Be Lenient. Loving Firmness Is Respected When You Both Know In Your Spirit That It Is Right.


7. Scripture Commands You to Dwell With Your Wife “According to Knowledge Giving Honor Unto The Wife, As Unto The Weaker Vessel” (1 Peter 3:7).

Which of the following items would give you an opportunity to honor your wife by providing loving and wise boundaries for her?

1. Not Getting Enough ________________.

2. Not Finishing ________________.

3. Frustration When Under ____________________________.

4. Too _____________________________ Of People.

5. Wrong _____________________ For Men. (Dressing in a manner that is provocative and, thus, can cause men to lust after her. Help her with this, because she doesn’t see her body the way a man does. It is your responsibility to see to it that your wife and daughters do not cause men and boys to sin by the way they dress.)

6. Volunteering __________________________ For Jobs.

7. Dwelling On ________________________________.

8. Poor __________________________ Habits.

9. Putting On Excess ____________________.
10. Fears From Past ____________________________ .

11. Letting Personal __________________________ Go.

12. Foolish ________________________________ .


15. ___________________________ For Events.

16. Inability To Make __________________________ .

17. ___________________________ In Meeting People.

18. ___________________________ Too Much.


*Think through guidelines that you can establish to protect your wife from failure in any of the above areas.*

*NOTE: When your wife expresses weakness during her monthly cycle, listen with compassion, give verbal reassurance of your love, but don't try to counsel or correct her.*

*NOTES:*
V. SHE NEEDS TO KNOW THAT YOU ENJOY SETTING ASIDE QUALITY TIME FOR INTIMATE CONVERSATION WITH HER.

INSIGHTS -

1. Perhaps the Most Basic Need of Your Wife Is Intimate _________________.

2. Intimate __________________ is Only Possible When There Is A Oneness of Spirit. This is the goal of marriage.

3. When You Come Home, Your Wife Has More Things To ________________ Talk About Than You Probably Suspect.

4. Her __________________ of Sharing Them Comes If She Knows That You Enjoy Listening and Are Not Anxious to Do Something Else.

5. If She Senses That You Are Pre-occupied Or In A Hurry, She Won't Talk, Or Will Discuss Only a Few Items of Lesser Importance. She is willing to make this “sacrifice” until someone else calls or visits and talks about trivia to you. Then she reacts-especially if it's a woman.

6. Her Reaction Has a Scriptural Basis. When you were married you relinquished full rights over your body, including your ears and your mouth. (see I Corinthians 7:4)

7. THE KEY TO INTIMATE CONVERSATION IS HAVING A REGULAR TIME PLANNED FOR IT. Half of her enjoyment is anticipating these times.

8. THE ULTIMATE LEVEL OF INTIMATE CONVERSATION OCCURS WHEN YOUR WIFE TRUSTS YOU WITH THE __________________ OF HER DEEPEST EMOTIONS.
**ACTION:**

*List the regular time(s) you and your wife have for intimate conversation.* (If none, plan one now.)

*List the places that your wife enjoys going in order to have intimate conversation.*

Breakfast at ________________________________
Shopping at ________________________________
Dinner at ________________________________
At home during ________________________________

*List the distractions that hinder intimate conversation when you are together. Propose to avoid them.*

1. Having Your ________________________ On Other Things.

2. ________________________ Calls (or texts on your cell phone).

3. Being Late For Your ________________________________.

4. ________________________ To Friends You Meet (or texting while you should be talking to *her*).

5. Looking At Other ________________________.

6. Lack Of ________________________.

7. Improper ________________________ And ________________________.

8. ________________________ Music Or Surroundings.

What things do you look forward to sharing with your wife?

- Events of the day
- Her ideas on home improvements
- Spiritual lessons and insights
- How she really feels about certain things
- Needs and activities of the children
- Enjoyable past memories
- Clothes she is making or buying

9. **Most Wives Have Deep Fears And Emotions Which They Have Never Shared With Their Husbands.**

10. **Reasons Wives Don't Share Their Emotions:**

   A. Feeling guilty for having them.  
   B. Hoping they will pass.  
   C. Fearing rejection from you.  
   D. Desiring to reduce your burdens.  
   E. Knowing you don't have answers.

11. **Your Wife Finds Out How You Will Respond To Her Fears And Whether Or Not You Have Answers by Telling You about “Another Woman” Who Has The Same Problem.** She then watches to see if you have compassion, understanding, patience and practical help.

12. **The Fears of Your Wife Are A Test Of Your Love, Because “Perfect Love Casts Out Fear.”**

   It is your responsibility to lovingly and patiently assist your wife to identify and verbalize her fears and to gain wisdom from God in resolving them.

What steps can you take to remove your wife's fears?

A. Become aware of the fears which many wives have:

   1. Insecurity If The Husband ________.

   2. Growing ________.

   3. Becoming ________ To Her Husband.

   4. Ill Health Due To Past ________.

   5. ________ As A Wife/Mother.
6. The Loss Of Your ________________.


8. __________________________ Awkwardness.

9. __________________________ Deficiency.


12. Future Of The ____________________________.

13. Being Displaced By __________________________.

B. During times of intimate conversation, choose one of the above areas and ask her how she really feels about it. After her first answer, ask “in addition to that, do you have any other feelings about it?”

C. Take each fear your wife expresses and ask God for wisdom in resolving it:

1) What Scripture deals with that fear? Study and memorize it.
2) What steps of action can you take? Begin taking them.
3) What steps of action can she take? Encourage her to take them.

VI. SHE NEEDS TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE AWARE OF HER PRESENCE, EVEN WHEN YOUR MIND IS ON OTHER MATTERS.

1. Your Awareness of Your Wife's ________________ Is Her Assurance Of Your Love And Protection.

2. It Was This Very Quality That First Won Your Wife And Assured Her Parents That You Would Be A Good __________________________.

3. She Recalls With Vivid Detail Your Awareness Of Her Presence And Attentiveness To Her Needs Before You Were Married, And She Feels Shut Out And Lonely If this Is Missing Now.
4. *This Attentiveness to Her Presence Is Actually the True Basis of Manners, And Explains Why Women Are So Concerned about Them.*

5. *Your Wife Has Ways of “Measuring” Your __________________________ Of Her Presence Every Day.* This tells her how much of a part of your life she really is.

6. *Whatever Manners You Choose To Work On Must Be __________________ Carried Out.* If you treat your wife like a queen one day and neglect basic manners the next day, she will feel insecure and resist your attention in order not to be hurt.

7. *Love Has Good Manners.* Which of the following manners do you consistently practice?

- □ Helping Her On And Off With Her ________________.
- □ Seating Her At The ________________.
- □ Opening ________________ - For Her, Especially The _____ Door.
- □ ________________ Heavy Objects For Her.
- □ ________________ For Her At Restaurants.
- □ Knowing and ________________ Table Manners.
- □ ________________ Up After Yourself At Home.
- □ ________________.
- □ Properly ________________Her.
- □ Telling Her Your ________________.
- □ Refraining From ________________ Language, Criticism, And Improper Subjects.
- □ Personal Cleanliness, Neatness, And ________________.

*Explain to your wife that you plan to work on these and ask her to assist you by waiting for you to open the door, standing by her chair, gently reminding you of appointments, etc.*

*When She Asks You a Question:*

A. Stop what you are doing.
B. Look at her.
C. Smile when you talk.
D. Answer her question. Even little questions.
E. Tell her with your eyes that you love her.

VII. SHE NEEDS TO SEE THAT YOU ARE MAKING INVESTMENTS IN HER LIFE THAT WILL EXPAND AND FULFILL HER WORLD.

1. The Major Function Of Our Head Is to Develop, Train, And Protect The Rest Of Our Body So That Our Whole Being Is Able To Achieve Its Highest And Best Purposes.

2. In This Sense, The Husband Is To Be The Head Of The Wife (Eph. 5:23).

3. Learn The Spiritual Gift Of Your Wife, And Discern Her Progress In Developing It, As Well As The Other Six Gifts Listed In Romans 12.


5. Visualize How You Can Add New Dimensions To Her Responsibilities So That She Can See Future Value In What She Is Presently Doing.

6. A Wife Must Feel That What She Is Doing Is Very Important to You. She is not “just a housewife.” She needs to hear from you as husband that without her you are incomplete. She must be continually reassured of your need for her. What she does for you will be fulfilling to her if she knows it is what you want.