

# Understanding Your Man

Sunday, June 16, 2024

10:30 AM

Several weeks ago, The Holy Spirit began to formulate a message for Father's Day. Frankly it's a word that I have really struggled with giving and have gone back and forth several times wondering if I should... Not because it's harsh or demanding word... And certainly not because I don't believe it is important or from God, because it is... But for several reasons...

First of all I thought there might be some who would not be interested because it is Father's Day and it's about men; so they might think it doesn't apply to them. For instance... I'm not a man, My father's gone, I don't have a husband, I'm not a Father...

Secondly, I struggled with thoughts like... he's putting all the burden on me as a woman... Or worse yet, he's a man so he's preaching a self-serving message.

But The Lord kept bringing back to it so I am trying to be obedient to preach a message that I really do believe is from The Lord and could be a blessing in lots of different ways...

What if we could understand the men in our lives better and what they need, and how we could be used of God to build them up, to bless them, to be an instrument of God in their success in being who God wants them to be...

In other words, what I want to share with you today is deeper than the relationship between husbands and wives... This can apply to many of the MAN RELATIONSHIPS that you have in your life... Mother's to sons, Father's to sons... Children to Father's... Spiritual Mother's and Father's to Spiritual sons, Spiritual Children to Spiritual Father's.

And yes there is much of what I will talk about today that also applies to women... And I am not saying there is not an equal call to men to be an instrument of God in building up women. I do believe that God created men and women different, physically, emotionally and with different needs; so while there is definitely some crossover in the application of these needs, I would like to specifically focus on MEN this morning.

## Ephesians 5:33

**33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect (revere} her husband.**

Reverence: An act showing respect (Love)

**MUST...** we get tied up on that word. I want to remind you that he starts with the husband and says he **MUST...** (It simply means love is not optional... Whether it's a husband loving a wife, a wife loving her husband, parents loving their children, children loving their parents - honor your father and mother, believers loving other believers, or loving the lost, or even loving our enemies)... make it her aim would be a great way of interpreting this phrase

There is much that God shows us in the marital relationship that can be applied outside of the marital relationship

Husbands **LOVE** (Agape) your wives... **AGAPE LOVE** defines the **ACTIVE LOVE** God has toward us and the **ACTIVE LOVE** that we are to have towards God and towards others

*Agape love, often considered the highest form of love, embodies selflessness, sacrifice, and unconditional care for others. This profound concept, transcends mere feelings, emphasizing actions and commitment.*

The actions of Agape love are defined in by verses like...

**John 3:16** (showing God's actions toward us)

**16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**John 15:13** (showing God's actions towards us)

**13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7** (Describing our actions toward others)

**4** Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5** It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **6** Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7** It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

So today I want to help define specific actions that fulfill the scriptural exhortation for wives to **RESPECT** or **REVERE** their husbands (and again I am not just talking about wives and husband, but want you to apply this in various types of relationships when it comes to men - young and old, married and single, wives toward husbands, mothers towards sons, dad's towards sons, sons towards fathers, daughters towards fathers, spiritual mom's and dads towards spiritual sons, and vice versa, etc... etc... etc..

My hope is to uncover some spiritual truths about men and how God created and wired them and why these actions are important.

**They need UNCONDITIONAL LOVE** (they know they're not perfect and they know they mess up. They know they don't always make the right decisions)

Too much of what is called love in the world is conditional. It comes only if certain conditions are met and maintained. The idea is that if I set the conditions for love the person will rise to that standard. But amazingly it is unconditional love that truly frees us to rise up and be a person who is worthy of that love.

**1 John 4:9-10**

**9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

We didn't deserve God's love, we didn't earn God's love, We didn't love him first and then get love in return... He loved us unconditionally and took action based upon that love. What could you do to give the men in your life unconditional love.

**They need encouragement (built up)**

Men need encouragement to grow and to thrive. The enemy and the world specializes in tearing down. We have learned the false concept that tearing someone else down will make us feel we are somehow building ourselves up or are in a higher position. Another dangerous lie is that we need to tear ourselves down in order to make others feel Built up

What does it mean to Encourage or to Build Up?

: to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope : [HEARTEN](#)

: to attempt to persuade : [URGE](#)

: to spur on : [STIMULATE](#)

: to give help or patronage to : [FOSTER](#)

The word encouragement in the Bible comes from “para,” which means alongside, and “kalew,” which means call. So to “encourage” is to “[call alongside](#).” This is the same term used for the Holy Spirit, who is called alongside to help us live to the glory of God. I think of God's creations of EVE a helper (one who is called alongside to help us and encourage us)

**1 Thessalonians 5:11**

**11** Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

**Ephesians 4:29**

**29** Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

**They need to know you BELIEVE in them**

Some men will spend their whole lives searching for someone who believes in them.

Believe they can be something, believes they are worth something, believes they are special, believes they are valuable... Because the voices of the enemy and many times the voices we hear from those around us and even in our own heads, cry out the very opposite of these things.

David was a young shepherd boy, but God believed in him... So he sent Samuel to anoint him and tell him that he would be king.

**Jeremiah 1:4-8**

**4** The word of the Lord came to me, saying, **5** “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” **6** “Alas, Sovereign Lord,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.” **7** But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. **8** Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the Lord.

**1 Timothy 1:12**

**12** I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service.

When is the last time you told the men in your life... I believe in you, you got this, God has prepared you and gifted you to do great things.

## They need to know you are PROUD of them

\*If unconditional love, encouragement and believing in them is on the front side then being proud of them is on the back side. The first three motivate and stimulate them to be who God has created them to be, this one lets them know that you recognize that they have done just that and therefore encourages them to continue in their pursuit.

2 Corinthians 7:4

4 ..I take great pride in you.

At least twice during Jesus earthly life the bible says that the heavens opened up and a voice from heaven spoke and said "This is my son, with him I am well pleased.

\*This isn't false flattery but recognition and respect for the true steps towards God that people are taking

## They need to know you TRUST them (don't forget men that trust can be lost and must be earned)

1 Timothy 1:12

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service.

1 Corinthians 4:2

2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

\*don't forget men that trust can be lost and must be earned

## They need to know you are ON THEIR SIDE

Jonathan's Armor bearer...

1 Samuel 14:6-7

6 Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few."

7 "Do all that you have in mind," his armor-bearer said. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul."

Do you know what that does to the heart of man?

But this doesn't mean that we just approve every decision without question. I think of Abigail, the wife of Nabal, who would later become David's wife. (1 Samuel 25) When her husband's foolish decision angered David and he was on his way with his men to kill him and his entire household. She wisely, but with reverence and respect went to David bringing provisions for his men and assuaged his anger. Her words persuaded David that she was on his side, but that he was making the wrong decision. David listened to her advice and acknowledged that he would have been wrong in carrying out his plan and thanked Abigail for keeping him from doing the wrong thing. The next day when she told her husband his heart failed him and became like stone and 10 days later it says the Lord struck him and he died. Later David sent for Abigail and she became his wife.

\*All these things are what our heavenly Father gives us because he knows they are what we need... Isn't great to know that we can be God's Instrument for helping to meet these needs in the lives of your fathers, your husbands, your sons, your

Find a man in your life (a husband, a father, a son, a grandson, a spiritual son) and invest some of these principles into their lives this week and in the weeks to come

\*we do these things not only directly to their face with words and actions; but also indirectly with our thoughts, and with the words and actions we use about them to other people even when they are not around.