

1 Peter 3:7 NAS

You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Emotional Connection (The Husband's Accommodation)

Almost weekly I hear a Godly woman say through her tears, "I just wish my husband could connect with me at an emotional level." What are these women wanting? What is missing from otherwise strong marriages? One young lady I know and respect put it this way. "My husband is a great provider and he even takes me on regular dates, but I want him to 'get me.' What does she want her good man "to get?" Is she asking for something *unreasonable*?

I think she is asking for "an understanding way" commanded by the Apostle Peter in the passage above. God has created women to be weaker in that they are more *emotionally astute* and consequently more easily bruised. They feel things in a real way and long to be understood and accepted by their husbands. As a husband chooses to obey this command, he becomes more fully a man that God will listen to and use. From a practical stand point how does a man connect with his bride on this emotional level?

1. First, he must see real value in the process and be willing to honor God in an area that is not his default. He will need to set aside undistracted time each week to listen to his wife as she articulates *the good, the bad, and the ugly*. 3-4 times per week seems a reasonable goal.
2. Second, he must be willing to get "face to face" with his wife. He should look into her eyes and study her as he would any of his other passions. He needs to use all his senses to *hear* her.
3. He needs to focus on understanding her without pressing for solutions to her issues. He must steel himself against offense, as he can't assume that some sadness or complaint on her part is an indication of a failure on his. He needs to ask *gentle questions* to help her clearly communicate her thoughts.
4. He needs to enjoy her for who she is. A smile and a kind touch go a long way to communicate the sentiment that, "I love you deeply and am so glad you are my wife."
5. Throughout the week he needs to be careful of words and looks that can be interpreted as criticism. (He must eliminate all profanity and words of contempt from his vocabulary.) A woman desperately wants to please her husband --- if she senses that she has failed, she will likely nag, control, manipulate, or detach.
6. He needs to pray for God's assistance in this powerful endeavor to serve his wife.

***If a man will love his wife in this caring and thoughtful way, he will inevitably see her blossom. God will use his kindness and patience to grow a woman who is secure, confident, joyful, and capable. Gals, if this is a new endeavor for your guy, it is vitally important for you to be both patient and encouraging of his efforts to connect emotionally with you.**

James 1:19-20 NAS

This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

1 Cor 7:3-4 NLT

The husband should not deprive his wife of sexual intimacy, which is her right as a married woman, nor should the wife deprive her husband. The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband also gives authority over his body to his wife.

Flirtation & Sexual Intimacy (the Wife's Accommodation)

(Why and How a Godly Wife Needs to Initiate It Frequently and Creatively)

Just as most women need a regular emotional connection with their husbands through quality time and conversation, a man needs to be needed physically by his bride. If he senses that she does not desire him, at least from time to time, he will withdraw emotionally. Below are some “do’s and don’ts” on how to own your fella.

Don't let your weight, hair, skin, etc. deter you from pursuing your man; he is not nearly as concerned about how you look as how you act toward him. With all other men be as pure as the driven snow. With your hubby be a temptress.

Don't use the “frontal assault” approach. ie “Do you want to have sex tonight?” Of course he wants to make love to you!!! But you have just patronized him. He will likely acquiesce to avoid a conflict, but he will feel like you *pity* him. Few men are interested in “charity sex.” A subtle but important change to the above question is, “Could we have sex tonight?” But, there are plenty of even better ways a girl can communicate her desire for her husband. A coquettish look or touch can be powerful. Be creative.

Do initiate sex approximately 1/3 of the time. Be fun and flirtatious well in advance.

Do tell him frequently that you “need him” or “want him.” Think about him positively and tell him what you think. He fantasizes about you and your face and body all the time; he would like to think that you fantasize about him on occasion. When you communicate that you “need him,” you have shown him great respect and built him up as a man. Aren't we men weird, frail creatures --- much like you girls☺

Do be a tease. Whether in bed or on the couch; in the kitchen or in the garage, touch him where it counts for him. You and only you have the proper license. Even if the sex needs to be postponed until later, you have just bonded with your guy. He will never forget your “move” and will replay it in his mind for years.

Do tell him what feels good to you. Especially as a man grows older, having an orgasm slips to somewhere below eating a peanut butter sandwich. What he wants to do is bring pleasure to his wife. And, because you girls are such “moving targets,” you will need to keep him informed as to what currently turns you on.

Prov 5:18-19 NIV

May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer-- may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.

*Guys, if this is a new endeavor for your bride, it is vitally important for you to be both patient and encouraging of her efforts to show her affection for you in this way.