

GOD HAS A PLAN B FOR YOUR MARRIAGE—*OUTLINE***Seven Things Your Spouse Secretly Wants**

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I. The Cosmos: A Fitting Arrangement.**A. The Creative Order (Genesis 1:26-29; 2:18-25).****B. Both Man and Woman Govern Benevolently According to the Course Set for Them by God (Delegated Dominion).**

1. Fruit is born effortlessly and painlessly (seed-bearing offspring), and it is particularly enjoyable for mankind.
 - a. Man drawn to woman (affinity), connection of sameness (naked and not ashamed [*put off, disappointed*]).
 - b. Helpmeet = help, surround, relieve; correspond [fit together]; answer the “alone” by how they fit together.
2. Not a different species; assures compatibility; “I can see myself.” Compared to other animals, this one’s for me! Like “seed-bearing” plants.
3. “For this cause...” attraction and fit so perfect that man leaves flesh he came from to “pursue” [catch, follow hard after, stick] flesh he will join.

II. The *Fall* from God’s Intended Arrangement (Genesis 3:16-21).**A. The Instinctive, Mutual Oneness of Man and Woman is Severed.**

1. They are attracted to one another, but now their differences are striking (cover nakedness).

2. Desirable fruit that was yours simply for the taking (2:9; 3:6) is no longer under your control; husband now an enigma. Imagine having an instantly and constantly attentive husband—without having to work on him!!
 - a. Even though the fruit bearing from the union will be painful [angering, worrisome], she will still want to be together.
 - b. Fruit (of womb and soil) now comes in pain and toil, instead of just in pleasure.

III. The Redemptive Order.

- A. The Goal is still to Be Together [*koinonia*] and to Bear Fruit [*fruitfulness*].
- B. Invite the Kingdom of God—resubmit to His will—and take authority over life circumstances. Suffering and submission accomplish lots of redemption.
- C. The Point is to Fit Husband and Wife Back Together—connect again through particular positioning, so they “work” correctly again, and line up with His original intentions.

IV. Another Look at Submission (Ephesians 5:21-6:9).

- A. Submission is Context for All Believers (5:2, 21).
 1. Redemptive power in going along with another’s will, instead of pursuing our own. “Better idea” and independence caused problem.
 - a. “Be subject to one another” recognizing the sovereignty and the example of Christ. Same submission as man to pastor.
 - b. Both husbands and wives are supposed to “love” and “be subject to” one another; love and submission are the keys to fitting back together.
 - c. *Hupotasso* = [arrange, order, situate] + [under, among, with].

- i) Reflexive verb –something we do to ourselves, not to others.
- ii) Not an issue of priority or superiority, but of connection.
- iii) Impossible to arrange/connect things without a starting reference point (no moving target).

v. What Most Wives Want from Their Husbands:

- A. More Listening and Talking About Her and Her Feelings and Her Day—making conversational connection with what is going on in (side) her life.
 - 1. Sharing is her way of touching.
 - 2. And, more talking is about what is going on inside of him.
- B. More Time Together and More Physical Closeness—just being around the house or in the car—but specifically not leading up to lovemaking or heavy touching.
- C. More Affection and Romance—things said and done that create lots of mental and emotional “leftovers”—like hugs, little gestures, notes, kisses, activities that take special (advance thought) planning.
- D. More Affirmation and Encouragement, Showing Appreciation for Her Work, Decisions and Contributions—treating her as a respected and honored friend whose perspectives are valued.
- E. More Acceptance of and Familiarity with her “Feelings”—giving them validity, and respecting them, whether or not they are “logical”, “reasonable” or able to be justified according to his way of thinking.
- F. More Active Participation In and Help with “Family”—schedules, chores, kids, etc.—convincing her that he really wants to help with what helps her, not just with what he thinks will help.

- G. More, *True Spiritual “Headship”*—seriously and actively seeking God about how to live, what to do and what to say—creating an atmosphere of love, godly counsel and insight.

VI. What Most Husbands Want from Their Wives.

- A. More Sympathy for Him, Showing Concern for His Health, Comfort and Situations—is being a soft and welcoming place of succor where he can rest his “little boy” head.
- B. More Companionship and Togetherness, Doing Things He Likes Doing—and not necessarily leading to “deep talks” about problems, emotions, her, or other people.
- C. More Physical Satisfaction—especially attention to her appearance, and sexual responsiveness and initiative—making him feel desired and thought about, and that she is excited about exciting him.
- D. More Appreciation for His Sacrifices and Labor—commenting on what he does for the family—being understanding about the pressures coming from his job and from the family finances.
- E. More Respect for, Encouragement of and Belief in Him—making him feel more special than anyone else—that he is capable and smart enough to beat the challenges of life.
- F. More Loyalty, Support and “Standing Alongside” Him—to bolster his confidence taking his side in public, being convinced that he will succeed in life and more willingly and enthusiastically following him.
- G. Less Nagging and Reminding about “Things to Do” —genuinely asking for help, rather than directing. Less “I told you so” and “I know better”—not so contentious and contrary.

V. Supplemental Chart—Corresponding Characteristics

What Most Wives Want:

What Most Husbands Want:

(From Their Husband)

(From Their Wife)

Listening and talking—
making an emotional
connection.

Physical intimacy, sexual
responsiveness and
initiative.

True spiritual headship—
seeking God and covering
her.

Respect, encouragement
and believing in him.

Time together and physical
closeness that doesn't lead
to lovemaking.

Companionship and
togetherness doing
things he likes—not
leading to "deep talks."

Affection and romance
with tenderness.

Loyalty, support and
"standing alongside"
him.

Encouragement and
appreciation for her work,
decisions and
contributions.

Appreciation for his
sacrifices and labor for
his family.

Acceptance of and
familiarity with her
feelings.

Sympathy for his
situations, comfort and
health.

Active participation and
help with the family.

Less nagging and
reminding him of things
to do.