



GIVING HIM WHAT HE NEEDS

By Jesse Lusk



The onslaught of temptation facing men today is staggering. Popular culture is saturated with lust. Yet despite the external assaults of media, raunchy conversations around the office, and immodestly dressed women at every turn, there *is* an internal, God-given drive for sexual pleasure. Paul gave the following advice to the church in Corinth, a town flooded with sexual perversity:

“Because there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband... Do not deprive each other of sexual relations, unless you both agree to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time so you can give yourselves more completely to prayer. Afterward, you should come together again so that Satan won't be able to tempt you because of your lack of self-control” (1 Corinthians 7:2; 5-6, ESV).

We Christians sing about amazing grace, but we often think in terms of amazing *justice*. This is tragically true within many marriages. A husband fails in his romantic responsibilities toward his wife. As retribution, she deprives him sexually. He retaliates by further distancing himself romantically. Eventually this can culminate in an emotional affair, pornography, or outright adultery.



Sex within marriage is meant to be both a blessing and a form of protection. When a woman denies her husband sexually, she may believe she is protecting herself. In truth, she is leaving her marriage and family open to all kinds of dangers.

At the same time, sex is not something a husband can demand or leverage. Biblically, the responsibility for sacrificial love and understanding falls first on the man. On the other hand, there are some tremendous ways a woman can satisfy her man.

REPLACE: Pornography has absolutely no place within a marriage. However, men are extremely visual. A wife can occupy her husband's imagination with creative experiences and images in the marriage bed.

RELIEVE: For a man there is no greater stress relief from the pressures of life than having a sexually proactive wife. A surprised and delighted man will be engaged and attentive rather than aloof and exhausted.

RESPOND: There is nothing more frustrating than when a husband genuinely tries to romance his mate and is shut down. His efforts may not be perfect, but he is showing interest in his wife and avoiding the snares of the enemy. A wife should do her best to reward his efforts with grace based on faith rather than feeling.

REJOICE: Sex and romance are gifts from God. Proverbs says a man should rejoice with the wife of his youth. Provided your intimacy is free from abuse and pornography, and kept between the two of you, have fun!

The Song of Solomon describes a woman who initiates wonderful sexual acts with her husband. If wives today will learn from her example and faithfully satisfy their husbands, they will find themselves able to say like the Shulamite, "I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me" (Song 7:10). Ultimately, the marriage will be protected and husbands changed by grace.