

Relationship

Appreciate his desire for shoulder to shoulder friendship

We come to the R in CHAIRS

C= Conquest – work and achieve

H= Hierarchy – protect and provide

A= Authority – serve and lead

I= Insight – analyze and counsel

R= Relationship – how to be your husband's friend



Men you can thank me later.
It seems like a joke but it really is not a laughing matter on how to be a friend to your husband. It might mean that later today you put off some of those things you were going to do and stay in the TV room with him and enjoy the time together... no matter what is on TV

Men Desire Friendship From Their Wives

- Men communicate by sharing experiences, activities
- Women share by talking about them with impressions and emotions

We have spent a great deal of time trying to get your husbands to open up to you and communicate the way that you would want him to. Now it is your turn to learn to communicate like he wants and that might be just as difficult because you have to be quiet and enjoy just his presence.

It's a "Show" About Nothing

- Sitting quietly maybe nothing to you but it is significant to your husband
 - He wants to experience life with you at his side
- PHIL 2:4 - *do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*
- Talking is not necessary to build a relationship from a man's point of view

Seinfeld was a show about nothing. Your marriage may do well to follow that example.

Paul tells us in Philippians that we need to put others' interest ahead of ours. In the verse preceding this one (3) he talks about regarding on another as more important than the other. He is talking to Christians in general but we can apply this to wives as a form of submission as well.

Men don't need to talk to build a relationship and not talking is giving up something for a woman.

You've Got a Friend in Me

- You need to be lovers, but you need to be friends as well

Song of Solomon 5:16

...This is my beloved and this is my friend...

Titus 2:3-4

Older women... teaching what is good, that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands,...

SOS in chapter 5 talks about the marriage of two lovers starting off with the consummation of the marriage with words like drink and imbibe deeply, O lovers. It then goes into the bride describing and praising how handsome her husband is.... it ends in describing her beloved husband as her friend.

In Titus, Paul is telling Titus how to instruct the teaching in the church and informs him how to get the older women to instruct the younger women. The older women who have been “around the block” know what husbands like and instruct the younger women to be friends to their husbands.

The love in this passage is **phileo**. This is the love of brotherly love.... like a friend not the **agape** love of unconditional love.

Do You “Like” Him?

- Sometimes liking him is more difficult than loving him
 - socks just missing the hamper
 - leaving the seat up
 - watching TV instead of mowing the lawn
- Would you want to “hang out” with your husband?
 - sit watching TV (even sports?) without saying anything - that is communicating with him

When men do MAN things, it makes us hard to love and really makes us hard to like. Sometimes you will do things and put up with things out of the unconditional love of a wife for a husband, but many times it makes him harder to like.

You need to learn how to like “hanging out” with your husband. That might mean doing something you don’t normally do.

Story about deer hunting.

It is times like this that you may be communicating with him far more than an hours long discussion.

How Men Communicate

- Men grow close by doing activities together
 - common experiences, mutual interests bond them
 - think soldiers
 - little negativity, few compliments, no focus on relationship
 - rarely talk about how they feel toward each other
- Male/Female experiment in communication

Common experiences – fly fishing, golf, computers, etc.

Soldiers are said to have as strong a bond as any two people can short of marriage and it is because of the experiences they have together etc. I think this is why doing things like running, working out, etc. with someone of the opposite sex can lead to affairs. There is a bond formed with men through mutual interests and experiences

Communication experiment –

4 groups of couples of the same sex 2nd grade, 6th grade, 10th grade and 25 yo put into a room and told they could talk if they wanted but someone would be in soon.

1. Females always turned their chairs to each other to face each other
2. Males kept chairs parallel to each other (shoulder to shoulder)
3. Experimenter came into the room after some appointed time and quizzed each of them.
4. The most open and transparent of all pairs was the 10th grade boys – because they communicate via experience more than the females

- For women
 - FACE to FACE = HEART to HEART = Relationship
- For men
 - SHOULDER to SHOULDER = HEART to HEART = Friendship
- You must be willing to just sit and be there with little or no talking
 - that is bonding for him

There is the built in tension that we have discussed before about the different needs and desires of couples. This is another example of that and being aware of the differences. There are going to be times when men need to give in an talk and communicate verbally with their wives but just as often there are going to be times that women need to see that their husbands need to just sit and experience time together without speaking. That is just as bonding and necessary for the relationship as the discussions.

Spend Time Together - Stay Together

- Timing is everything

ECC 3:7

... a time to be silent and a time to speak.

- Just be there with him
 - watch him mow the lawn, help him wash the car, clean the garage, run errands together
 - sit and watch the Super Bowl

The timing on when to talk and when to be silent is always going to be important. As we discussed in the last slide and have said before... timing is critical in all these matters. Each person needs to be aware of the others' needs.

As unnatural as it is for your husband
to sit and talk, it is just as unnatural for
you to sit and stare -- but it shows
that you LIKE him and want to spend
time with him

Your Husband Will Feel You Value His Friendship When...

- you tell him you like him and show it
- you respond to his invitation to engage in recreational activities together or you come along to watch him
- you enable him to open up and talk to you as you do things shoulder-to-shoulder
- you don't denounce his shoulder-to-shoulder activities with his male friends to get him to spend more face to face time with you.