

# Talking Points

---

## Wisdom and Insights for the Married Man (by Gary Dahl)

### Expectations:

- Life is not fair, and situations in your marriage may not be not fair.
- In marrying another person, you are also marrying their family.
- You don't have to have things a certain way in order to have a good marriage.
- Women want to feel secure – they may take control in order to make that happen.

### Wounding her:

- Men are highly focused and can ignore distractions which unfortunately can include their wives.
- She feels if you don't pay attention = You don't care.
- Time itself does not heal. If she keeps bringing it up, she is still wounded.

### Her Anger:

- Women notice problems sooner than men do. If she says, "I'm annoyed" or "I'm irritated", pay attention.
- A woman may often think that if she is angrier, the more it will get you to change.
- A women's anger can be extremely disruptive and can be overwhelming to a man.

### Maturity:

- Don't wait for her to change. Whoever does the right thing first is the more mature believer.
- Saying "I'm sorry" or "I was wrong" when appropriate is a sign of maturity.
- For a man to admit a need or ask for help may feel like saying "I'm weak". This is not true. It can be a sign of maturity.
- Don't always take things she says personally.
- If it's not your fault, you don't need an excuse; if it is your fault, you don't have an excuse.

### Surrender:

- You have little control over how she thinks, feels, and acts. Surrender trying to change her.
- Surrender control of your marriage to God.
- Accept her the way she is, right now, and trust that God will lead her to change.

### Miscellaneous:

- Marital issues are rarely only one person's fault.
- It's not your job to make her happy and vice-versa.
- You are not responsible for her actions, moods or feelings.
- Ruth Graham quote – What's the secret of a long marriage? "He plays golf, I play bridge."

*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.* Matthew 7: 24 (NIV)