

SESSION 3



**LOVING GOD'S WOMAN BY
PROTECTING HER**

1. Let's talk about what it means to protect God's woman.

Jesus is the definition of what it means to protect your wife when Scripture says:

Ephesians 5:25:

“He gave Himself up for her...”

“In the words ‘gave himself up for her,’ we hear the saving sacrifice of Jesus Christ. When Christ gave himself up for us, he took our place. He bore our sins (1 Peter 2:24) and became a curse for us (Galatians 3:13) and died for us (Romans 5:8); and because of all this we are reconciled to God and saved from his wrath...” - John Piper

A. When Paul calls a husband to love his wife like Jesus loves the church, he intends for him to protect her at all costs.

- This begins with physical protection. Men are to protect their wives from physical danger and threats.
- Men, talk to your wife about her sense of security.
 - Does she feel secure with you?
 - Does she feel secure in your home?
 - Does she feel secure in her car?

B. Never put your wife in harm's way; that's your position.

- Hearing a loud noise downstairs, a real man would never say, “*I checked it out last time. It's your turn now.*”
- Your call is to protect your wife, at all costs. She is a gift from God, and her safety is in your hands.

C. Encourage your wife to be wise, and see to it she has what she needs to be safe.

- This may include getting her special training or equipment. Find out her comfort level and equip her with what she needs to be safe.

D. Protection is written on a man's DNA, but realize this can be a very sensitive topic.

- A woman can feel oppressed if her husband is too restrictive in his protection. But it is very important.
- Edgar Rice Burroughs wrote in *Tarzan of the Apes* that “*He (Tarzan) knew that she (Jane) was created to be protected and that he was created to protect her...*”
- A “protective” sentiment is not sexist—it's natural.
 - Real men know that women are to be protected, not exploited.
 - Real men know that women are to be defended, not demeaned.
 - Real men know that women are to be treated with special honor instead of nothing special whatsoever.

2. A man gives emotional protection.

A. A real man protects his wife from emotional harm.

- Be aware of emotionally harmful people. Life is full of emotionally unhealthy people. You must recognize those people and shield your wife. This may include lovingly confronting:
 - Family members
 - Friends
 - Fellow believers

B. Protect her from yourself.

Colossians 3:19:

“Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.”

- Paul instructs husbands to love their wives, and follows it with 7 words – “*and do not be harsh with them.*”
“I used to think that if a man came into my house to attack my wife, I would certainly stand up to him. But then I came to realize that the man who enters my house and assaults my wife every day is me, through my anger, my harsh words, my complaints, and my indifference. As a Christian, I came to realize that the man I need to kill in order to protect my wife, is myself as a sinner...” - Richard Phillips, the Masculine Mandate
- Paul singles out this one component – harsh – as his one specific concern for men.
- That tells us something about Paul’s awareness of the disposition and temperament of too many men.

C. Men, rather than being harsh we must be gentle.

- Gentleness is a very important, but often undervalued, attribute of effective leadership – particularly in a husband.
- Gentleness is so essential to the Christian experience that Jonathan Edwards suggested it may very well be called “the Christian spirit.”
- “Gentleness” can be defined as mildness in dealing with others in light of their worth and dignity, which are rooted in the image of God.
“Gentleness is illustrated by the way we would handle a carton of exquisite crystal glasses; it is the recognition that the human personality is valuable but fragile, and must be handled with care.” - Jerry Bridges, The Practice of Godliness, 220
- Men, don’t break the crystal! Your wife is God’s daughter. Treat her with the gentleness you would want your daughter treated with.
- Men, do not be harsh with God’s woman. Love her with a great measure of gentleness!
“I choose gentleness... Nothing is won by force. I choose to be gentle. If I raise my voice may it be only in praise. If I clench my fist, may it be only in prayer. If I make a demand, may it be only of myself.” - Max Lucado

3. A man gives spiritual protection.

A. The spiritual dangers confronting marriages and families are innumerable and often rooted in evil spiritual powers. We must protect God's woman.

- How do we spiritually protect God's woman?

B. Protect her from false teachers.

Acts 20:29-31:

"I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore **be alert**, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears."

- As men, we are called to *be alert*, watching out for our wives and stewarding what they see, hear, and read.
- The world's largest library is at our fingertips, stocked with lousy literature, lies, and destruction. You must filter your family's intake.
- Check with your pastor if you are concerned about something you, your wife, or your children are reading.

C. Protect her from Satan.

1 Peter 5:8:

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

- **One way to protect your wife from Satan is by being quick to forgive, apologize, and reconcile.**

Ephesians 4:26-27:

"Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil."

- Unresolved anger gives the devil an open door...
 - A greater chance for Satan to speak lies and accusation
 - To plant seeds of contempt
 - To nurture an attitude of bitterness and division in our hearts
- Protecting your wife means taking the lead in quick reconciliation.

D. Protect her from temptation and worldly influence.

Mark 14:38:

"Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- Watch for worldly influences in your own life and that of your wife and children.
- Television, social media, and worldly friends can be spiritually devastating. Protect God's woman.

"One man on the wall is better than 100 behind it..." - Dr. Bryan Hurlbutt

Your Table Discussion Questions

1. Today, we learned that a man's protection is *physical*, *emotional*, and *spiritual*. Which of these areas are you thriving in? Which areas do you need to grow in? Explain.
2. Where has harshness manifested itself in your life? How did it creep in? How do you fight against it?
3. Unresolved anger gives Satan an open door. Men are prone to one of two responses: avoid anger and confrontation, or lash out in anger and create confrontation. Which are you inclined towards? Where does that come from? Discuss how you should resolve your anger.

Your “BetterMan” Question

Before our next session, take a moment this week to reflect on your notes and contemplate this thought: Satan is after the woman in your life, and he can use you to get to her. What is one thing/area in your life that is most susceptible to Satan's influence? How do you defend against the evil one?