

## Love Means Fulfilling Needs Of Others

By Paul Jetter, Pastor, Upper Valley Community Church, Piqua, Ohio  
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It has been said that the number one complaint women have about men is that men do not listen. Instead of listening and validating feelings, men tend to offer quick fix solutions.

Men need to learn that women need acceptance and assurance. When a husband ignores his wife's words, she hears him say, "I don't really care how you feel. You're really not very important to me."

Men who do not take time to listen to their wives and daughters are showing a sign of selfishness. The number one desire of women is to be cherished. When a man buries himself in the newspaper or behind the TV, the lady of his life gets the message that the TV or the newspaper is more cherished than she is.

The number one complaint men have about women is that women are always trying to change them. In others words, women sometimes nag.

When a wife constantly tries to change a man, he feels inadequate and out of control. He feels unacceptable for what he is and may get the message that his wife really wishes she had married a different type of a man.

Both husbands and wives have a tremendous need to feel unconditionally accepted by their mates. Instead of being given solutions to their problems, most spouses want to hear something like this: "You've worked hard." "It must be difficult to have a day like this." "You're a wonderful person." "Come here and let me hold you."

The Bible says, "*Do to others what you would have them do to you*" (Matthew 7:12). Many conflicts could be avoided if husbands and wives simply treated their spouse like they expect to be treated. When we speak, we want to be heard. When we fail, we want to be cherished. When we serve, we want to be thanked.

If a husband comes home from work, goes straight to the pile of mail and reads the bills before greeting his wife, he is saying that they are more important than she is. If a wife is constantly late and makes her husband wait, she is saying her time is more important than his is.

When spouses fill up their schedules without giving special time to their mates, they are saying that the one they married has a low priority in their life.

A little girl and a grandmother stood before the dolls in a large store. The little girl begged for an expensive doll that talked, walked, nodded its head, and mimicked many other life-like features. The grandmother suggested a less expensive doll. "What does that doll do?" the little girl asked.

"This doll listens," the grandmother wisely replied. The little girl happily took home the doll that listens.

Like children, adults need someone who will listen. Love means fulfilling the needs of the other person. Selfish people talk and talk without paying any attention to what the other person is saying. Spouses who cherish each other try to fulfill each other's needs.