



## No Cuts And Much Praise!

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An old man stood beside the casket of his wife of more than fifty years, tears rolling down his face. His children and friends tried to comfort him, but he could only mourn, *"I loved her so much, I loved her so much..."*

He had always been a quiet, reserved man. Although he had been a faithful husband to his wife, his children had never heard him express his love with such emotion. His wail of *"I loved her so much, I loved her so much..."* caused them to hush and listen closely, sensing that he had more to say.

*"I loved her so much..."*, he cried again. And then, he gained a little composure and added, *"I loved her so much I nearly told her once."*

Sad as this little story may seem, some husbands bottle up their praise and words of affirmation, assuming that their wives know how they feel. They are like the man who said, *"I told her I loved her when I married her, and if I ever change my mind I'll tell her. Until then, she knows that I love her."*

While the most important need of a husband is to be honored, the greatest need of a wife is to be cherished. She needs to feel that she is the most important person in her husband's life. She needs to feel that she is beautiful in his eyes.

Some may argue that the need to be praised is a sign of weakness. If that were the case, then God would be a weak God. Throughout the Bible, we are called upon to praise the Lord, to exalt him, to express our love and devotion to him.

The need for praise is not the sign of weakness, but the sign of a deep yearning of a good relationship with another. When a husband praises his wife and expresses his love and devotion to her, she feels she is valued. A husband who values his wife will also respect her, treat her kindly, and fulfill his vows to her.

The first words a wife hears from her husband every morning should be words of praise that express his love. The last words at night should equally express his feeling that she is wonderful in his eyes.

Because a woman is usually more relational than a man, she more greatly values things like eating out, celebrating her birthday, or being praised. Because a man concentrates more on getting things done, he usually values things like a new car or finding the right channel with the remote control.

The problems come when the husband tries to fulfill his wife with things and achievements instead of giving himself through meaningful conversation, a planned night out, or tender words of praise and love. The problems intensify when the man becomes more concerned with having sex than in the romance, commitment, and relational understanding that God intended to go with the act.

It has been said that a woman's beauty at 20 depends on the chromosomes God gave her, but her beauty at 70 depends on the praise her husband has given her.

The Bible says, *"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs."* (Ephesians 4:29) That means NO cuts, and MUCH praise!

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