

Men that make a Difference



Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

This is a product of *Kanaan Ministries*, a non-profit ministry under the covering of:

- Roly, Amanda's husband for more than thirty-five years.
- *River of Life Family Church*
Pastor Edward Gibbens
Vanderbijlpark
South Africa
Tel: +27 (0) 16 982 3022
Fax: +27 (0) 16 982 2566
Email: sharmain@rolfc.co.za

*There is no copyright on this material. However, no part may be reproduced and/or presented for **personal** gain. All rights to this material are reserved to further the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ **ONLY**.*

For further information or to place an order, please contact us at:

P.O. Box 15253
Panorama
7506
Cape Town
South Africa

27 John Vorster Avenue
Plattekloof Ext. 1
Panorama 7500
Cape Town
South Africa

Tel: +27 (0) 21 930 7577
Fax: 086 681 9458
E-mail: kanaan@iafrica.com
Website: www.kanaanministries.org
Office hours: Monday to Friday, 9 AM to 3 PM

Kanaan In Europe - Basel

Kanaan Ministries Europe
Oikos International Church
Stiftung b/e/t/e/
Reinacherstrasse 1-3
CH-4142 Münchenstein
Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 (0) 61 332 15 40
Fax: +41 (0) 61 332 15 69
Email: kanaanministries@bete.net
Website: www.eu.kanaanministries.org

MEN THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
A: WHAT MAKES A MAN?	5
B: THE FOUR PILLARS OF MANHOOD	7
C: STAYING POWER – A MAN’S GREATEST STRENGTH	9
D: UNDER ORDERS: A MAN AND HIS LEADERSHIP	11
E: REAL MEN STAND TOGETHER	21
F: 3D SEX	23
G: TO KNOW THE FATHER - RESTORATION	28

MEN THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

It's tough being a man – especially in a culture that is not sure what manhood means.

Many men wonder: “What do women want?”
 “What do people expect of me?”
 “What do my children need?”

LEADER. PROTECTOR. FRIEND. LOVER.

Men are expected to fill a wide variety of roles. It can be extremely difficult to achieve a healthy balance. God has provided a powerful blueprint for balanced manhood and my prayer for this weekend is that He will use me as His mouthpiece to teach what is on His heart concerning this very important matter.



In a world that is hurting badly, people are searching for answers and solutions to all their problems. I have counseled many hurting and wounded people over the past ten years and have discovered that the greatest wound comes from a broken father relationship.

We have weak churches because we have weak families; we have weak families because we have weak marriages; we have weak marriages because we have weak husbands and fathers; we have weak husbands and fathers because nobody has ever trained them! May God use this weekend to heal and restore those that missed out on having a dad that could teach you what it means to be a man.

KICK-OFF QUESTIONS:

- 1. Why did you come this weekend?**
- 2. What really matters to you?**
- 3. What do you want to accomplish with your life?**
- 4. When your tombstone is carved, what words do you hope to appear on it?**

A: WHAT MAKES A MAN?

First, foremost and above all else, it is VISION.

A vision for something larger than himself.
A vision for something out there.
A vision of a place to go.
A cause to give oneself for.
Call it a sense of destiny.
Call it a hill to climb.
A mountain to conquer.
A continent to cross.



A man must visualize ahead of time. Project. Think forward. Lift his eyes and chart the course ahead. Anticipate what the months and years may bring.

This is the very essence of his leadership. This is the “**KING**” in every man ----always looking ahead, watching out for his people, providing direction and order.

Men, so often misplace their vision. They focus mainly on houses, cars, bank accounts and job titles, thinking that this brings about status and security, when in fact there is no status or security without **relationships**. Matters of character, heart, spirit, integrity, justice, and humility are where men ought to be majoring in their provision.

Men, your families are all looking to you, they're depending on you to set the course, to determine the direction, to set the pace.

The measure of a man is the spiritual and emotional health of his family. A real provider has a vision for a marriage that bond deeply, for sons with character as strong as trees and for daughters with confidence and deep inner beauty. Without that vision and leadership a family struggles, gropes and may lose it's way.

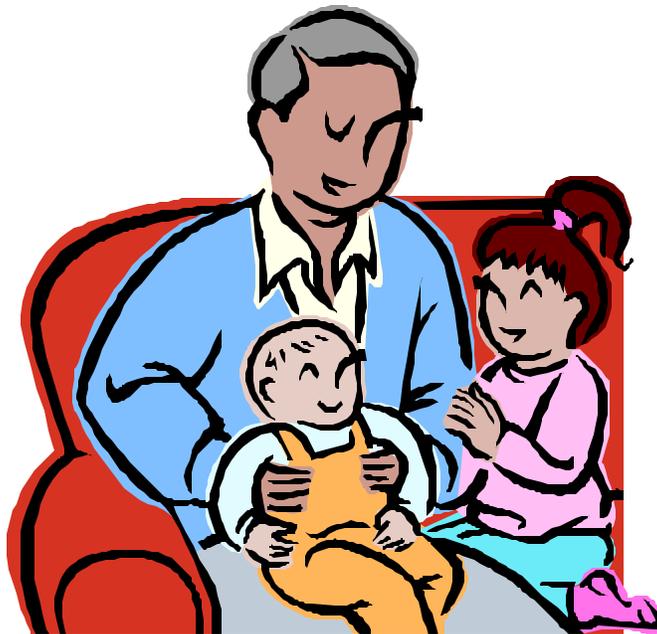
Men and women.

Men have a God-given tendency to look up and out and discern objects in the hazy distance.

Women have a tendency to read the “fine print” of relationships. A woman is simply a better reader. She has better focus on people and situations at hand. She can read right away what’s happening in the spirit, in a tone of voice, in a facial expression. Women place more emphasis on detail and on security. Men need to use their God-given capacity for distance vision to encourage and give hope and security to their families. When they cannot or will not, the people under their roofs suffer loss.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Men, when was the last time you developed a five-year plan for your family?**
- 2. Have you dreamed of it yourself?**
- 3. Have you shared it with your wife?**
- 4. Refined it together?**
- 5. Communicated it to the kids?**



B: THE FOUR PILLARS OF MANHOOD.

A MAN AND HIS GODLY ROOTS.

Four life rhythms throb in the veins of every male:

KING
WARRIOR
MENTOR
FRIEND

To the degree that they are balanced, the image is clear and they reflect the light of the One in whose image they are made.

To the degree that they are abused, the image is distorted, the man withers and those around him experience pain.

KING.

Man was made to have dominion.
The heart of the king is a provisional heart.
He looks ahead, watches over and provides order, mercy, and justice.
He is authority.
He is leader.
He stands “under orders” from Higher Authority.



WARRIOR.

God closes His Book on a white horse, in a blood-spattered robe, with a sword in His mouth and a rod of iron in His hand.
The Book ends with a roar, not a whimper.
The heart of a warrior is a protective heart.
The warrior shields, defends, stands between and guards.
Men stand tallest when they are protecting and defending.
A warrior is one who possesses high moral standards and holds to high principals.



He is willing to live by them, stand for them, spend himself in them, and if necessary die for them.

MENTOR.

This function is commanded in the Bible in the form of “teaching them to observe” and “disciplining”
The heart of a mentor is a teaching heart.
He models, explains and trains.
Men are supposed to be able to teach life.
He is supposed to know things.



FRIEND.

The heart of a friend is a loving heart.
It is a care-giving heart.
Compassionate.
Commitment-maker.
Promise-keeper.



Masculinity means Initiation.

- *Hebrew word for man: “Ish” – piercer.
- *The term for woman is: “Isha” – pierced one.

At his core a man is an initiator – a piercer, one who penetrates, move forward, advances, and leads.

At the core of masculinity:

*It means caring for and developing your mate, your children and yourself.

*It means taking the lead in apologizing, the lead in seeking forgiveness, the lead in vulnerability.

C: STAYING POWER: A MAN'S GREATEST STRENGTH.

To make and keep promises.

Refusing to turn from his commitment.

It is this staying power that makes and marks a man.

Not bungee jumping, playing rugby, etc.

Certainly not leaving your wives.

Not abandoning your families.

The curse of our day is not so much the Aids epidemic as it is men who don't know what a man is and who cut and run from their wives and families.

News week journal reports:

Through most of the 70's and 80's, a million children a year watched their parents split-up;

Over fifty million kids are growing up in homes without a father;

70% of men in prison grew up without a father.

Our world is falling apart for lack of kings, warriors, mentors and lovers.

For lack of men who will stay.

Who will keep their word. Keeping your word is critical.

The calling of every man is to offer stability to a world full of chaos.

We live in a "hope so" world. There are few certainties in this life.

We "hope"

- ~ That our marriages will work out
- ~ That we will find fulfillment
- ~ That our children will turn out okay
- ~ That we'll be able to keep a decent job.

A real man brings certainty to his world by the power of a promise.

Promise making and keeping is at the heart of godliness.

At the heart of God – at the core of His nature – is the making and keeping of promises. All the Scripture hangs on a promise – a series of covenants.

Out of the whole world two people, man and woman, chose each other. There will always be someone else more beautiful, intelligent, wealthy, witty, competent, sensitive or sensual, But the power of that choice, that promise should keep them together with no question of finding a “better mate”. The toxin of comparison should be utterly neutralized and washed away by the sacred anti-toxin of promise. At the heart of staying power is SACRIFICE – giving one’s self up for the good of another.

Our example: THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

When He could have turned away from the cross, He stayed on course all the way to Calvary.
When He could have come down from the cross and sidestepped the suffering, He stayed.
He persevered and “stayed under” all the way until that moment came when He could cry out, “It is finished”.

Why did He do that?

So that through His resurrection power alive in your lives, you can become the kind of man He called you to be.
You can hang in there and face anything life or death of hell has to throw at you ----- because He did it all before you.



D: UNDER ORDERS: A MAN AND HIS LEADERSHIP.

God, Who is the Ultimate Authority, chose to describe a man's role in the home as "head".

The orders have already been delivered, once and for all, to men --
- husbands and fathers.

You are **COMMANDED** to lead; it is not optional!

God has given instructions regarding those under authority:

- ~ Submit to Christ
- ~ Be subject to
- ~ Obey
- ~ Respect

Men have been given a certain amount of authority but first and foremost, they are men under authority.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Men, are you coming under Christ's authority?**
- 2. Do you love your wife as your self?**
- 3. Are you being harsh or inconsiderate with her?**
- 4. Are you submitting to authority of your local church leaders?**
- 5. Are you willing to submit yourselves to fellow Christians?**

Before one can lead, he must learn to follow.

Men, you need to make sure you are obeying as well, and that you are providing a climate where obedience can flourish.

HUSBAND means - "Manager"
- "Steward"
- "Caretaker".

To be a husband is to be responsible.

HEAD means - Director
- Chief
- Headmaster
- Foremost.

The man is created first:

Male leadership is part of the original plan.
Adam didn't apply for the job.
He wasn't interviewed for the position.
God just wanted it that way.

The responsibility:

The man is held responsible for the couple's sins.
Eve ate of the fruit first.
Adam followed.
But it is for Adam's sin that the race is condemned.

THE WORD: "----- the judgment arose from one transgression --" Romans 5: 12, 16.

The man, as head, is responsible for all that his little family does or fails to do.

The woman in relationship to the man:

1. She was made for the man.
2. She was made from the man.
3. She was brought to the man.
4. The man named her.

Men, as husbands you have been given a trust, a stewardship, a responsibility, a duty to husband or manage or care for the gifts of your wife.

NB: If you abuse that trust, you fail at the very heart of your manhood.

A woman was made to be provided for, protected and cared for.



What is the solution?

Manly love.

It is leadership with the emphasis upon responsibility, duty and sacrifice. Not rank or dominion.

(If you insist on being the leader, you usually aren't.)

THE WORD: "Husbands, love your wives as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her" Eph. 5: 25.

Harsh dominance is not the way of Christ.

Note the linkage: Headship is linked to saviourship.

The heart of saviourship is SACRIFICE.

KEY TO SAVIOURSHIP = SERVING.

What are a woman's needs?

1. Her need for affection that is TENDERNESS.
2. Conversation – sharing of the heart.
3. Honesty and openness – no secrets between us.
4. Security – physical and financial provision.
5. Relational commitment – she must know she is a priority.



HONOUR, NOURISH, CHERISH.
IT IS AN ACTION PLAN.

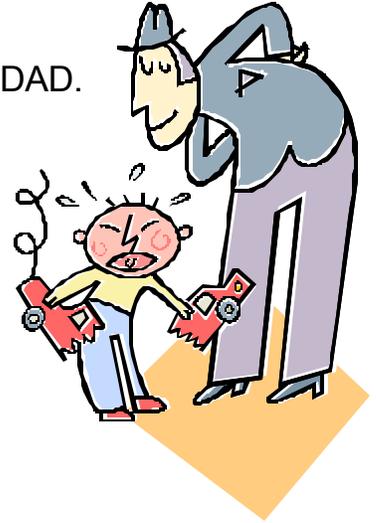
QUESTIONS:

1. What "language" does your wife speak?
2. What difficulties have you experienced trying to understand it?
3. What progress have you made learning it?
4. How do you understand Peter's meaning when he says your wife is a "weaker vessel?"

THE INCREDIBLE POWER OF GATHERING.

The most powerful word in the English language – DAD.
It spans generations: Present or absent
Positive or negative.

The power of a father is incredible. Like no other person a father possesses a special power to mold another's life, shape it, give it form. Concepts of character flow from this man's life. Esteem. Principles. Identity. Anchor-points.



Quote:

“I see many men walking around in midlife with a sense of yearning for things they can't get from their wives and can't get from their jobs and can't pull down from inside themselves. I am convinced that what men are missing is a sense of their own identity – a very primitive and very deep sense of validation that passes from father to son – one generation to the next.”

FATHER POWER WORKS IN CYCLES.

FATHER POWER INFLUENCES AND SHAPES GENERATIONS.

Your father power can be used in a positive way (Ps. 78: 5-6). The law of the fourth generation. When father power is used according to God's order, the results are seen in the following generations. The wise father who applies these principles leaves an inheritance to his descendants that are truly blessed by the Lord.

A poem by a child that was raped by her father from the age of five for a period of nine years:

My Daddy.

**I don't want to be an adult
Adults do cruel things to children
I sure don't want to be a child
Children pay for their parents' sin.
What's it like to really be a child
To run and jump and play?
I wonder how many children like me
Asked God to keep their Daddy away?
My Daddy hurt me over and over again
Doing things that Daddies aren't supposed to do
He gave me treats and told me not to tell
And at first I thought that he loved me too
I'm told I have another Father
One who lives up in the sky
And I'm supposed to trust this man
Who didn't protect me and I don't know why."**

FATHER POWER CAN BE USED NEGATIVELY.

Father power that is ignored or abused will result in much heartache and hurt.

1. A man can harm his descendants (Ex. 34:7)
2. A man can harm his nation (Mal. 4: 5-6).

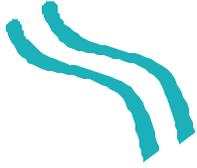
FATHER POWER MUST BE CONTROLLED.

- a. Positive father power requires open communication lines to function effectively:

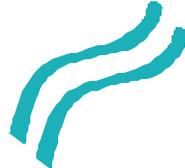
1. **With The Heavenly Father.**

It is impossible to be a father to your son until you have first become a son of the Father

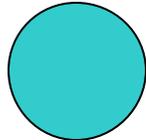
**ADAM
GENETICALLY**



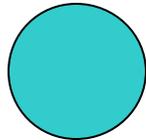
**SPIRITUAL
CHRIST**



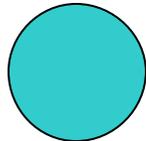
**These 2 streams
converge in each of us.**



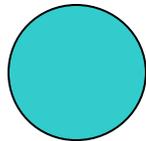
GREAT GRANDFATHER



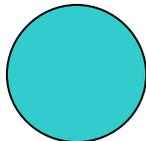
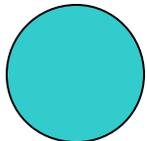
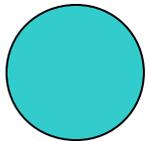
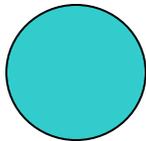
GREAT GRANDFATHER



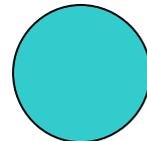
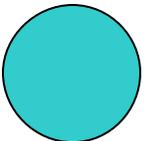
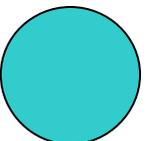
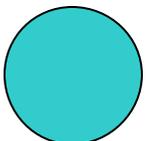
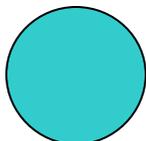
FATHER



YOUR OWN NAME



CHILDREN



**GRAND-
CHILDREN**

According to the law of the fourth generation, your great grandfather still exerts an influence on your life.

2. With your earthly father.

Have you got unfinished business with your father?

3. With succeeding father.

See your sons as future child raisers.

- b. Positive father power requires a commitment. It will assume one of three forms:
1. Some will continue in a cycle.
 2. Some will start a cycle.
 3. Some will break an old cycle.

“When a child is down, only a dad can help. **The Word calls it Father Power.**

Statement:

When the father is an active believer there is about a 75% likelihood that the children will also become active believers. But, if only the mother is a believer this likelihood is dramatically reduced to 15%.

How we long for our fathers!

How powerfully we are affected by our fathers: present or absent, negative or positive.

If my own father doesn't think I'm worthwhile, I must be worthless.

If my own father cannot love me, then I must be totally unlovable.

If I'm truly worthless and unacceptable and unlovable, then God couldn't really love me.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Think back through your own memories: Dad's hairy arms; Dad's body odour. Boys become men by watching men, by standing close to men.**
- 2. What “video” played for you while growing up?**
- 3. What do you think of when you hear the word “dad”?**
- 4. How has your relationship with your own dad affected the way you live today?**

YOUR OWN CHILDREN.

God gave fatherhood to the man.
You are responsible for the development of your children.
God did not leave it to your wife.

***THE WORD: O.T. Gen. 17: 18-19 Ps. 78: 5-6.
N.T. Eph. 6: 4.***

A Few Practical Pointers – for Positive Father power:

1. Pursue the ultimate father: live for eternity instead of the weekends. Think larger than yourself.
2. Model and teach respect for authority.
3. Help your family see the big picture.
4. Commit solidly to family unity.
5. Be positive in building family member's confidence.

QUESTION:

Is promise-keeping an important part of your own practice of fathering?

***THE WORD: “behold – children are a gift of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; they shall not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies in the gate.
Ps. 127: 3-5.***

LETTING GO.

Your children are not intended to stay bunched in the four walls of their childhood home.

The home is a vehicle to fashion and straighten and balance the children.

But when the moment comes – young men – and young women – were made to experience flight.

Flight to target and maximum impact on that target.



Our children were designed by their Creator to make an impact on the world.

To live for a reason

To speed toward a goal.

To accomplish a purpose.

Letting go is a God-given responsibility as important as love in the parent-child relationship.

Without release, children cannot grow.

With it, they gain the confidence and independence to seek and reach their potential in life.

Give your children roots and wings.

For God's sake, for their sake, for your sake, for the world's sake, for the Kingdom's sake, LET THEM GO!

Letting go takes an act of the will because it contradicts so much of what we are and because it involves significant pain.

Letting go, however, is a process, not an act.

It's a life long mindset, not an impulsive decision.

The goal is to release a child to adulthood and full responsibility for his or her own well being under God according to His purposes.

You are letting them grow up.

Release your SONS to become provisionary – **kings, warriors, mentors and friends**– men who stay and stay and stay.

Release your DAUGHTERS to be what God fashioned a woman to be:

Strong in companionship ability, nurturing skills and the development of other human beings. A helpmate suitable.

We are to produce kids who can emotionally leave home, kids who can come to love somebody else more than they love their parents.

They must also be released to full responsibility for their own well-being.

That includes responsibility

- ~ For their own living space
- ~ For their own bills
- ~ For their own health
- ~ For their own insurance
- ~ For their own relationships
- ~ For their own walk with God.

May God grant you the strength to draw your bows to the full and the wisdom to release your arrows with practical skill.

As time draws to a close on this darkened planet, surely every arrow must count!

QUESTIONS:

- 1. When your parents released you, did you know it?**
- 2. Were there strings attached?**

E: REAL MEN STAND TOGETHER.

Real men are willing to die for their wives and children yet there is something inside them that longs for someone to die with ---- someone to die beside – another man with a heart like your own.
Friendship requires honesty.
Friendship requires trust.
Friendship requires vulnerability.



Men who have neglected intimate friendships with other men have far greater difficulty handling the mid-life turmoil and are devastated at retirement without a network of friends or support. Today's image of the independent man is that he has few if any emotional needs. Therefore they manufacture non-emotional reasons for being together.

QUESTIONS:

1. **Are you giving yourself to anyone?**
2. **Are you opening up to anyone**
3. **How would you describe your own friendship with other men: casual, close, intimate, or non-existent?**

The core of all meaningful relationships, particularly man-to-man, is shared values.

They don't necessarily have the same skills or talents or interests or hobbies.

At the value levels of your lives, you are walking together step by step. Wives, children, Kingdom, vision of ministry, etc.

With shared values, you are willing to stand together for something much larger than yourself.

That's the core of friendship.

It's much bigger than golf or rugby. Much wider and deeper than trout fishing or shooting game.

LEVELS OF COMMUNICATION.

1. The cliché level

How are you? Without really waiting for an answer.

The degree of transparency is practically nil.

Keeps people strangers.



2. The fact level:

Sharing what you know.

The degree of transparency is a little more real.

It still keeps people at arms-length.

It doesn't let them in.

3. Opinion level:

Sharing what you think.

Starting to share a little bit of yourself but still keeping people at a "safe" distance.

Cannot build relationships on opinions.

4. Emotional and transparent levels:

Actually sharing who you are.

As the degree of transparency increases so the number of people with whom you share is much smaller.

The levels of trust and commitment and bonding make for much deeper and stronger relationships.

Emotional communication means conveying hopes and fears and dislikes and aspirations and disappointments and sorrows.

It's giving away whom you are.

It's giving away a part of you.



F: 3D SEX.

Sex is a gift from God

- A. God** instituted sex to our advantage. He wanted us to have a part in the process of creation. (Gen. 1: 27-28)
We reproduce ourselves
- B. God** wants us to derive great pleasure from the sexual act. (Prov. 5: 19)
- C. God** also instituted sex to symbolize the importance of relationships. The physical act symbolizes the union of Christ and His Church. It also symbolizes the making of a man and his wife into one flesh.

Sex is also a communication process – messages of life are expressed between you and your wife. Intercourse means communication – to **KNOW** one another.

Sex is a communication of the whole person – not only a body-to-body act.

God's Word teaches us that there are three dimensions to sex:

Spirit, Soul and Body.

The world's view is one dimensional; Body to body – you are limited to this one dimension.

We are spiritual beings and therefore the focus of sex should be on the spirit and the soul.

Do not limit your interest and affection merely to the “equipment” (although it helps to have good equipment!) for this will demean the sex act.

The world's view of sex is a body-to-body act – one-dimensional – that has no meaning, because it could be **ANY** body. It may not matter to the world, but it certainly matters to God.

God has given you one special mate in your life that deserves a special language of communication, a language that only the two of you understands.

- D.** Godly sex is the ultimate, most intimate expression of loving between a Man and his wife.

Key word: **INTIMATE** (wall-socket sex!)

It is where your partner looks you in the eyes and knows who you are.

- E. Sex is a process**

The physical act consummates the communication process. Men, don't read the last page of the book first!! You have to start at chapter 1.

It is a process that grows and culminates in the sex act. Sex doesn't start the moment that you jump into bed!

- F.** Sex is a **thermometer**. It measures the warmth of the relationship.

- G.** 3D sex knows no limits.

If you are only interested in the body, you will very soon run out of body to discover and you will have to go in search of another body (usually a younger one) to make further discoveries.

- H.** Sex is a **social** relationship. Sexual satisfaction is directly proportional to how well a man and woman integrate and harmonize their lives.
There has to be total unity.

BLOCKAGES OF SEXUAL SATISFACTION LIE IN FOUR AREAS THAT LEAD TO SEXSUAL MALFUNCTION

1. Spiritual blockages:

A blockage between the husband and God or the wife and God will result in a blockage between the husband and his wife. For a healthy sex life, it is of the utmost importance that the man and his wife should be in fellowship with God. The more you are tuned in to God, the more you will be tuned in to each other.

2. Intellectual blockages:

a) The world presents an unrealistic expectation of what happens during sex.

Statistics:

One percent learnt about sex in church.

Three percent learnt from a father figure.

Seven percent learnt at school

Twelve percent from their mothers.

Twenty eight percent from the media.

Forty nine percent from friends.

Therefore, eighty percent are ignorant regarding the **truth** of sex.

b. Differences in sexuality

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| * Female | a comprehensive approach
Therefore she is easily side tracked. She has intuitive “radar” which scans the whole earth!
(Little feet, someone at the door, telephone, etc,) |
| # Male | difficult to distract (one track mind!) |
| * Female | people orientated – relationships and communication are important to her. |
| # Male | action! technique! physical! “Go for it”
At first a lot of action, fast, quick – be careful that you don’t have to later sit on the side. |
| * Female | attaches great value to attitudes and words. |
| # Male | visually stimulated. |

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| * Female | orgasm is longer with more depth |
| # Male | orgasm is shorter and more intense |
| * Female | orgasm is desirable but not essential. She wants intimacy. |
| # Male | orgasm is essential. |

3. Emotional blockages

(The most difficult area for men.)

Men get angry and use their fists. The women and children suffer.

1990 Report.

- The figure for rape has increased fourfold – as fast as the total criminal figure.
- One out of every 5 adult women is raped.
- One out of every 6 is raped by someone that they know
- Between 3 and 4 million women are assaulted annually.

Every man should examine himself to find out if there is anything hidden within him which could cause such outbursts.

There are many areas, which should be looked at, e.g. childhood pain, rejection, difficult birth, inheritance, etc.

For some men the destructive behaviour during outbursts of anger is a secret, e.g. sex with violence.

One of the most difficult things for a Christian man to confess is that he has a sexual problem.

If you have such a secret, you need help, You **HAVE TO** bring the problem into the light so that its power over your life can be broken.

4. **Blockages of the will**

Immediate gratification and self-centeredness are driven by the will.

Sometimes we want something for ourselves, and we want it **NOW**.

When your wife sees that you are burning for immediate gratification, she will start to distrust you.

Solution: *1 Cor. 7: 3-5*

Commit yourselves to a mutually satisfying sex life. This is the man's responsibility.

If you enter a sexual relationship with the idea of winning, you will lose. But if both enter into it with the idea of **giving**, both will win.

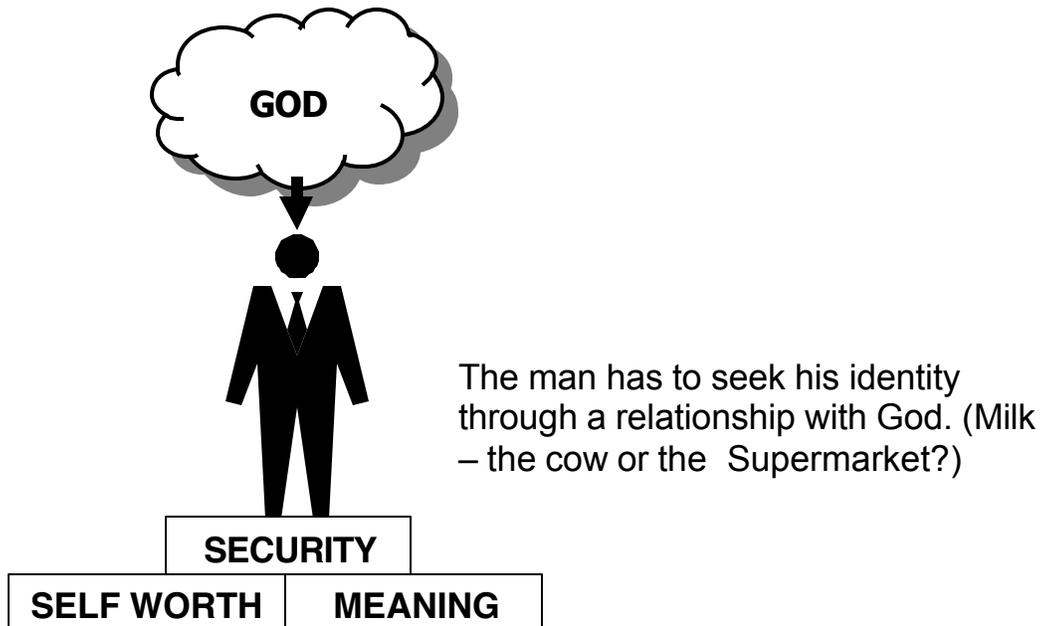
ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

- Lust causes men to see women as sex objects.
- The torment of the temptation to sin is nothing compared with the torment of the consequences of sin. Remorse and regret cannot compensate for sin.
- Men corrupted and contaminated by lust see nothing pure in others, either in motive or deed. They ascribe to others a perspective coloured by their polluted minds.
- Lust is insatiable; love is easily satisfied.
- One of Satan's perversions is to promise intimacy through pornography rather than prayer.
- Pornography promises the benefits, physical closeness and good feelings of intimacy, BUT ultimately results in distance, addiction, impotence and alienation.

Remember, no man possesses his wife in marriage, he is only a steward of her love. A good steward of that love maintains it over the years.

10. TO KNOW THE FATHER – RESTORATION!

Jesus came to show and to teach us what God's original plan was before the fall. **Only** through Him is it possible to restore the relationship.



The world says that true male fellowship comes out of a **beer bottle**; beer draws men together and overcomes rejection and loneliness. What deception!

Our deepest need as human beings are for **love**. Where does love come from?

How can I receive more love? How can I give more love?

Answer: *1 John 4: 7*

No man can fill this need, (Buy milk at the supermarket). People are not the **source** of love but only containers that can become empty.

As long as we believe that people are our source, two things can happen:

1. We give up and withdraw, build walls around ourselves and switch off – and much emotional chaos results.

2. We try to manipulate the person to give us the love that we need; we strive to perform, we threaten, plead, punish, etc.

When you have bought milk at the supermarket for a long time, you forget how to go back to the farm – we do not know how to approach God the Father.

To come closer to God the Father through Jesus Christ, we have to relinquish all hope and expectation of the love, which comes from other people. It means offering up all “*idols*” - setting your loved ones free and surrendering your relationships with them to the Father for cleansing and renewal.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for laying down your life for me so that even now I can come to the Father through You.

Father, I confess that I have not known you as my Father. For so long I have felt unloved. I need love, Father, and I know now that only you can give it to me. Forgive me for the times that I have manipulated people, threatened and forced them to give me love – and also for the times that I completely gave up and withdrew, blaming them instead of turning to You.

Jesus, I give myself to You. You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Here I am, Father, your broken son. I need you, Father. Only You. Love me, Father!!

