

Read these stats . . .

- 60% of all women said that regardless of how they think they look, they had a deep need or desire to know that their husband finds them beautiful.
- For women under 45, that number rose to 77%.
- For women under 35, that number rose to 84%.

(For Men Only - by Feldhahn)

What drives the need for women to have their beauty affirmed? Why do you think younger women need that more? How can men affirm their wife's beauty? Ladies, give the men some realistic suggestions.

PRAY

Here is a list of things to guide your prayer time. Choose any of them and spend some time in prayer.

- Take prayer requests from people in the group.
- Has God answered any of your prayer requests from the last couple of weeks? If so, give thanks.
- Pray for volunteers to help and money to be raised to underwrite the cost of our July 4th Spirit of America. Pray that the event will be a bridge to non-Christians in our city.
- Pray for people you know who have yet to be followers of Jesus.
- Pray for the financial status of our church. You can read where we are in *The Sunday Edition*.
- Pray for all the new people at our church. We have a lot of visitors every week, and they need to have an invitation to a community group. Pray that people in our church would develop a culture of building relationships with new people.



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Week of June 1, 2008

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The main point from Sunday's message was to ask questions that might help men take a fresh look at the wiring of a woman's mind, as well as helping women articulate what drives them. Don't forget the disclaimer we gave regarding using generalizations. Ladies, if some statements didn't characterize you, then share how you think differently. We in no way are saying that you are any less feminine by thinking differently.

1. Hopefully you have your marriage project book with you and can flip through the daily projects from last week. Give a brief update on how the daily projects went this last week and if you've learned anything about yourself.

The following topics were discussed Sunday morning by the panel of women. Take time to cover the questions under each topic and discuss what you heard and whether that resonates with your own life.

HOW WOMEN THINK

2. Last week we learned that men have a "nothing box" in their brain. This week we learned that women's brains work like a computer screen with 20 windows open all at once and are incapable of closing any of the windows.

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At best, some windows can be *minimized*, but she has no way of simply not thinking about those boxes. Ladies, do you relate to this concept? How?

Men, after the ladies have a chance to share with you, ask them a question about how they think and the implication this has for how they relate with you.

SECURITY

3. Women have been known to ask their husbands, “Do you love me?” Yet, men don’t understand their need to answer that on a regular basis. Maybe the biggest need that women have is to know they have been CHOSEN! When a man asks a woman to marry him, he chooses her over every other woman. Once married, she still needs to be chosen over other things that vie for his attention. Ladies, is this the number one need? Men, ask them questions about the best way they would like you to meet that need.
4. As you have participated in *The Marriage Project*, on average how long have your daily projects taken you to complete? . . . Going along with the topic of time, there seems to be a tremendous amount of pressure placed on men to provide for the financial security of their families, which consumes much of their time. However, for women, emotional security trumps financial security. The tension for men is balancing their time to provide financial security and emotional security. Men, how have you balanced your time during *The Marriage Project*, and is that a sustainable pace you will be able to keep for your life after the 29 days?

COMMUNICATION

5. Regarding communication, we all want to be heard. Men, try to recall what you heard from Sunday’s panel (also from your own experience) and share with the ladies what you do to help your wife feel that you are listening to her. Ladies, feel free respond to their answers.

SEX

Because the topic of sex is such a private issue, feel free to skip these questions. However, there are some groups which will feel comfortable enough to talk about sex “in general” without embarrassing themselves or harming their spouse. If so, then read on. If you want to skip this section, then skip it.

6. In their book *For Men Only*, Shaunti and Jeff Feldhahn list five facts about women regarding sex. Read them and then discuss your thoughts about the validity of each. Remember, be incredibly sensitive to your spouse. You do not want to harm his or her feelings, particularly in a social setting.

Five facts about sex and women

- She has a lower sex drive than her husband, and she’d change that fact if she could.
- She needs more warm-up time than her husband.
- The husband’s body (no matter how much of a stud you are) does not by itself turn on her body.
- For her, sex starts in her heart.
- She wants pleasure as much as you do; and if it’s not happening, she may be reluctant.

BEAUTY

7. Culture has always attempted to define beauty for women. Today is no exception. Women are blasted with images that define how they should look. This wears on her self-image. However, the only mirror in the house that should matter to her is her man. Think about that. The husband is the real mirror as he reflects his wife’s beauty. What I mean is that she needs to hear how beautiful she is.