

HOW TO KEEP THE WEEDS AWAY

KMI 2013 WORKSHOP WITH JIM WHITE

Introduction

One day I asked a group of businessmen, *"If you gave as much time trying to improve your business as you do trying to improve your marriage, what shape would your business be in today?"* Several of the men looked embarrassed. They realized they gave a great deal of attention to developing their career, but little creative thought to developing their marriage relationship.

A. W. Tozer said, *"The bent of nature is toward the wild, not toward the fruitful field."* If you let a garden go, the weeds will take over. The same thing will happen in marriage. If you do just what comes naturally, your relationship deteriorates. You will find yourselves getting further and further apart.

Below are seven principles that will help us become the husbands God wants us to be . . . and that our wives have been longing for!

ACCEPTANCE – an attitude that joyfully receives my mate unconditionally as a permanent gift from God . . . convinced that both her strengths and her weaknesses are exactly what I need to become Christ-like in my character.

Romans 15:7 - Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

GRATITUDE – verbally expressing my sincere appreciation for benefits I enjoy from what she does for me.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 - Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

AFFIRMATION – admiring her for strengths you observe in her personal character and abilities.

1 Thessalonians 1:3 - We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

CONSIDERATION – making wholehearted efforts to serve my wife in ways that are meaningful to her.

John 13:14-15 - Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

I Peter 3:7 - Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

COMMUNICATION – verbally expressing my deepest thoughts and feelings to her in an honest and responsible way . . . and then listening to her intently and patiently as she responds.

II John 12 – I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

PHYSICAL AFFECTION – giving her the type of pleasure she desires: tender touch . . . hugs . . . foot rubs . . . back rubs . . . kisses . . . sexual relations

I Corinthians 7:3-5 - The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife . . . the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. ³Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

LEADERSHIP - as her shepherd under God, assuming the oversight for her well-being intellectually, physically, spiritually and socially.

Ephesians 5:25-27 - Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.