

Heart and Home

Vol. 2 Number 1

Spring 2002



LOVE'S BROOM

by Patricia A. Johnson

Walls come a tumbling,
Walls come a tumbling, down.
In the face of love,
Walls come a crumbling,
Walls come a crumbling, down
Before the face of love
A soul cries out
And walls crack, walls crack!
Love makes room
Where there is no room,
Doorways where there are no ways,
Love will have its way.

**Run run, but you can't hide
From love's tracking eyes**
Flee, flee, where you gonna be,
Where is it that love can't find you?

Work, work, build a stronger wall
Love will sweep it aside.
Sweep it aside.

Under the shadow of love's broom
Walls fall,
They all fall down.
Love reigns,
Love reigns supreme.

I Love You Anyway

By Luke and Rachel Martin

Oil For a Smooth Running Marriage

I always like my husband's attention. But this time he kept right on teasing me and I was tired of it. "You know what?" I said. "I love you anyway."

He came to me and asked, "Are you trying to tell me something?" We both laughed. That was years ago. Those words, "I love you anyway," are still a joke between us. Sometimes though, we say it in all seriousness.

We all get the feeling at times that we are not altogether lovely; indeed, our sins are not lovely. But every one of us seriously wants to be loved anyway.

Thankfully, God has loved us anyway. He sent His Son to pay the price for our sins. As we allow His Spirit to have His way in us, we become increasingly lovely.

God planned that marriage should be a happy and fulfilling experience. He made man and woman each to fill a place and responsibility that complement each other. See Gen. 3:16-17.

Wives, submit yourselves unto

your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

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**Heart and Home
Harmony**

156 Newton Rd
Potsdam, N.Y. 13676

Editors: Luke and Rachel Martin
Parishville Christian Church

Heart and Home Harmony along with *The Boys Bugle* is published quarterly or as the Lord leads. Subscriptions free. Your

Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. (Ephesians 5:22-33)

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. (Colossians 3:18-19)

Man was made to lead and protect. God equipped him with an aggression, objectivity, goal orientation, and an ego necessary for that job. He craves and needs trust, acceptance, appreciation, admiration, approval, and encouragement from the woman he loves. Thus nourished and supported, he will work hard to do what he most wants to do — make her happy. He seems to naturally revere her. Adam wasn't deceived; still he hearkened to the voice of his wife and disobeyed God.

The existence of Boldt Castle near here on an island in the St. Lawrence River reveals to what length a man may go to try to please his wife. When she died, Mr. Boldt stopped building. Now it is a tourist attraction, though still unfinished.

God saw the necessity of emphasizing to man to love his wife. The Greek word for love in these passages is "agapao." This means a divine love. This love, not dependent on feelings or the worthiness of the recipient, is a love that gives itself like Christ did. This is what God asks of the husband in Eph. 5:25. Such love will inspire her to be the best help suitable for him that she knows how to be.

If he is doing his part in obedience to God, he has comfort in knowing he has God's approval.

Woman was made to nurture. She

is equipped with a warm, loving, and subjective nature. Her feminine instincts urge her to give of herself. She craves and needs caring and understanding love, respect, and devotion from the man she loves. Thus nourished and supported she will work hard to keep on giving of herself.

In Titus 2:4 aged women are told to teach the young women to love their husbands and children. The Greek word for love here indicates a "phileo" type of love. It is a natural love that people feel for family and friends. Following her natural instinct to love, she may begin to mother or try to remake her husband. God saw the necessity of emphasizing to her to reverence him. This reverence (phobeo in Greek) is the same type of fear that we should have toward God. Fear is respect for the consequence of any power or authority over us. A wife's submission is not based on whether or not he is worthy of respect, but on his God given position. Her reverence will encourage him to provide for her, lead, and protect her as best as he knows how.

If she is doing her part in obedience to God, she has comfort in knowing she has God's protection.

Professionals have seen huge differences between males and females in how and what they think, talk, and do. Because of these differences, misunderstandings often arise. Therefore, they fail to fulfil the needs of their spouse, although they love them and try hard to make them happy. It is claimed that many women leave husbands because they feel emotionally and romantically unfulfilled. Men usually leave wives not because they no longer love them but because they can't make them happy. He gives up

when he feels powerless to succeed in fulfilling her.

The recommendations of professionals boil down to this: to solve problems we need love, forgiveness and patience. To feel loved, men primarily need appreciation [reverence (phobeo)] from their wives and women primarily need love (agape) from their husbands. Of course, women also want appreciation and approval and men want understanding love. A primary need is one that must be fulfilled to be able to fully receive and appreciate the other kinds of love.

Likewise, ye wives, *be* in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation *coupled* with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge (with understanding), giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. (1 Peter 3:1-7)

The Holy Spirit helps us to grow in the love, forgiveness, and patience we need. Understanding some of the areas where we may differ may help us gain insight to better accommodate each other.

Many women, when they are upset, feel a need to talk about it. Talking may help her to sort out her feelings, make changes in her perspective, and come to a conclusion. Since men think and talk differently, they may have a hard time making sense of a woman when she shares a problem. They don't realize that what she needs first is comfort and reassurance and time to finish explaining. Instinctively, he offers solutions instead. He thinks he's helping by telling her she shouldn't feel upset, it's not that important. What he thinks is support makes her feel misunderstood, criticized, and her feelings invalidated.

Often when she shares her feelings, it sounds to him like criticism; even if he isn't involved in the problem, he may feel like she is blaming him. He mistakenly thinks she won't be happy unless he agrees with her; he may feel she is trying to control him. His tendency then is to feel angry and to blame and correct her. If, instead of dumping his anger on her or ignoring her, he supports her with consideration and respect, she may on her own see the solution and where she may have failed. If he asks questions and makes sure she has unloaded all her concern, she will be appreciative and able to hear his suggestions because she knows he has heard the whole problem. (Pro. 18:13) (Jam. 1:19-20) (1 Pet. 3:7)

Women can make it easier for their husbands by letting them know

what they need. Instead of saying, "You

don't understand" or "You're not listening" (that sounds like criticism to him) tell him what he should do; "I just want you to listen until I'm finished." Both will benefit. When his wife is happy and content, he will feel more successful and satisfied.

Just as men need to learn to calmly listen to a woman to fulfil her need for love, women need to learn the art of empowering a man by showing him reverence. The more a woman tries to improve or change a man, the more he will resist. He will feel unloved if she does not accept him as he is. She doesn't have to agree with everything to show appreciation. When she supports him with love, he will be greatly encouraged to change, grow, and improve.

A man can also help his wife support him by communicating his needs to her. By letting her know if he needs space or time alone, she can postpone her desire to talk.

Sometimes long buried feelings of pain from our past cause problems. Anger or other negative feelings may arise and be directed toward someone that loves us. Only a small percentage

of a reaction may be caused by the present. We may be totally unaware that the feelings could have their roots in childhood experiences. Telling them they are overreacting doesn't help. If someone got poked in a wound, you wouldn't tell him or her they are overreacting. Patience, understanding, and love will help them to heal.

I hope these few suggestions can be a springboard to help you figure out how you can encourage your partner to feel safe in communicating with you. Don't get discouraged; new relationship skills may take time to learn. Problems can be as complex as the people that have them. Satan has all kinds of tricks to trip us up. Many different lusts, pleasures, and trifling toys draw people away from faithful devotion to what God has joined. Certainly, it isn't easy to love someone snared in some unloveliness. Underneath the unloveliness of all of us is a person that God can transform into beauty if we let him. Initial and essential to that change is forgiveness — God's — and ours toward each other —and, sometimes the hardest of all, self-forgiveness.

For a happy marriage, remember this: don't let anger and

A Glorious Marriage

Christ loved and gave Himself for the church that he might cleanse it and present it to himself a glorious church. The earthly marriage relationship typifies the heavenly.

Every individual, choosing to give up self to enter Christ's church, becomes complete in Him. (See Col. 2:10) This completion is the ultimate in satisfaction that the human soul can

experience. It transcends all earthly experiences. It is better than the best of earthly experiences. The worst of earthly experiences cannot diminish the delight of the soul that treasures it in his heart. This gift is available to all - married and single, male and female,

Those who have received this solid foundation of emotional and spiritual satisfaction are not overly

dependent on others to fulfil their needs. When given the gift of marriage, they are each ready to give themselves for the happiness of the other. They become complete, one flesh. Marriage is a living organism. It has one head (the husband). When lived as God intended, it functions in harmony and productivity like the rest of His creation.

Do you not know that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* the members of a harlot? Let it not be! Or do you not know that he being joined to a harlot is one body? For He says, The two shall be one flesh. But he being joined to the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits fornication sins against *his* own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit in you, whom you have of God? And you are not your own, for you are bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. (1Cor 6:15-20 MKJV) See also Rom. 1:24:27.

In light of the above verses, it is no wonder divorce, rape, all kinds of sexual abuse and perversions cause so much deep emotional trauma and dissatisfaction.

If we can grasp the depths of blessing or cursing that lies within us depending on how our sexuality is used, we can appreciate why God says,

Flee fornication, and What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder. Matt.19:6. The delight and satisfaction of a happy marriage mirrors the glory of God, presents a picture of Christ, and witnesses to the world. **They two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.** Eph. 5:31-32.

Our example of obedience or disobedience to God in preserving the sanctity of the temple of our bodies, and the sanctity of marriage will have a rippling effect and will affect the happiness or the anguish of many in future generations. Look beyond the comfort of the moment when deciding a course of action. God's will is always what is best for everyone. His way, though it may seem difficult at the time, will lead to glory.

The Liberation of Women --- and Men

I know that feminists oppose many of the concepts that have just been presented. To them, it makes no sense and they feel it is even dangerous to a woman's soul.

The one who creates something will know best what makes it work. The One who made us knows what we need. Laying aside all the hypocritical Christianity that exists, seek to know the Creator and the truth of His Word. Truth may be paradoxical but it always

works and makes sense if we look deeper. Therefore, friends, please consider another viewpoint.

Yes, I know men do oppress women. They also oppress other men. And women oppress men - and other women. The problem is sin - men and women's. Women should realize how hard they often make it for men. When we serve SELF, not only may we be oppressing others, we put ourselves into bondage to SELF. Christ is the

only one that can free us from self and sin. The choice is yours. God is love. SELF can be a cruel taskmaster. By bringing self into subjection to LOVE, we can love everyone, including ourselves.

Feminists have fostered many untruths. It seems they've taken the bad things that have been said about women or done to them and blown it up till it sounds like that's all anybody ever said or did. Some even claim the Bible teaches us to despise women! They say Christianity teaches that women are the root of all evil, are stupid, worthless, they do everything wrong, and some are irredeemable!

The Bible tells men to love, cherish, and honor women. True Christianity teaches that we should not show partiality, that all humans have equal worth. Yes, the Bible uses the generic "he" for humanity. It teaches wives are to submit to husbands. It teaches women are not to preach in worship services. This need not offend us. It doesn't make us second class. If it insults you, learn to know the God who is love. He will help you to love yourself and to know the high value of your place as a woman.

We are honored with the privilege of bearing children, as well as countless other opportunities for creative benefit and profit. Not every woman's calling includes marriage and motherhood but every woman's purpose in life is worthy. Should men feel insulted that they cannot be as intimately involved in God's creation of children?

Feminism promotes the idea that being a housewife and mother is drudgery; it is more satisfying to be in

the male work force or the world of politics. Professionals have seen that women in an aggressive, competitive, goal-oriented work place have a harder time finding satisfaction. They lose touch with their soft, giving, feminine side.

What about the many women who live with the trauma of an abusive husband? If she does what God says (lives godly, submits to him, and shows her appreciation wherever she can) he will likely change for the better. It will encourage him to try to please her more. With patience, creativity, and love and guidance from the Holy Ghost, she may be able to break through the defensive shell with which he has surrounded himself. If it is necessary to leave for the sake of safety, she should remain ready for reconciliation.

I wish every feminist could glimpse the joy, the peace, the satisfaction, and the power of women that have accepted their God ordained calling. I wish they could realize the value of the education we get from our children and others we minister to. I wish they could witness the mountains of problems that have been overcome and the miracles of restoration that result, when we turn to God and do His will.

Is she worth anything to her family and the world? The Bible says **Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.** MKJV. See Prov. 31:10-31.

We know that every woman (and man) in the world would like to feel worthy. You were made in God's image. You can recapture that glory. Through Christ you can be virtuous and do what

"Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the



A new baby! Jasmine Dawn Hall, born February 26, 2002,
with siblings: Jessica, Amanda, and Robby Joe.

Chemical Free Garden Pest Control from your kitchen

Oil Plant Spray

A safe and environmentally friendly way of deterring garden pests from eating your favorite plants is to zap plants periodically with a combination of vegetable oil and dish soap. Simply mix 1 cup vegetable oil to every 1 tablespoon of dish liquid. Store the mixture in a spray bottle and keep it handy for periodic use as needed. You will also have clean and shiny plants.

Hot Pepper Spray

Many insects and garden pests, including deer and birds, can be deterred by treating plants, shrubs, and vegetables with a 10 to 1 solution of "Red Hot Pepper" sauce and water. Dilute the pepper sauce with 10 parts water and store in a spray bottle (in your refrigerator). Use liberally on plants periodically throughout the growing season, repeating as needed, particularly

after heavy rains (as the pepper sauce can wash away and no longer be effective). Be careful not to directly treat new blossoms or delicate plants. Hot pepper spray can be extremely effective on hardy plants such as corn, peppers, beans, berry bushes, rhubarb, and newly established shrubs and trees. If you do spray a plant, and it begins to wilt or brown afterward, simply rinse the pepper off from the plant with a garden hose. Most plants will recoup after the spray has been removed. Larger pests may require plants to be treated with a stronger concentration. Experiment to see what works best in your garden. Always start with the 10 to 1 solution, and adjust the concentration according to what your garden plants will tolerate.

Tona Bouchard
Potsdam, N.Y.