

# Knowledge:

A familiarity, awareness, or understanding of someone or something



Years ago, a ministry leader I respected stood in front of a large audience and announced that he had written a book about everything men know about women. He proceeded to flip through the blank pages and many in the audience laughed. I did *not* laugh, because I did *not* find it amusing to perpetrate the myth that men cannot understand women. God's Word tells husbands to live with their wives in an *understanding* way (1Peter 3:7) - that is to know his wife. The Lord is not going to tell us to do something that is impossible! We are to *know* our spouse - to be familiar with, aware of - to *understand* him or her! That, my friends is what intimacy is all about - intimately knowing the one we are committed to for life. Yes, it requires some work, some investment - time to truly know this person we are spending life with.

Look at this; Hebrew word *yāda* is used 947 times in the Old Testament translated know or known or knowledge 769 of those times - it also is translated perceive, understand or acknowledge. The word is used to know someone - being familiar with or understanding them, but it is also used as a term for carnally *knowing* someone; i.e. sexual intercourse. *Yāda* is a term of intimacy - it is a term used for God *knowing* people and people *knowing* Him. What is the deepest physical intimacy husband and wife can have? Sexual intercourse. It is *knowing* each other physically, but also knowing each other intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually.

Proverbs 1:7 states: "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*" Yes, we can know our spouse, but knowing and understanding God and His purposes for our lives and our marriages is the foundation for truly *knowing* this person who is so very different than we are. You must be intentional about better knowing your spouse. Knowledge does not just happen by osmosis; it requires an investment, an investment of time to truly begin to understand your spouse. AND, you cannot stop learning your spouse! We change and circumstances change as we move through this adventure we call life. Take the time to know your spouse - to truly understand who he or she is.

**Helpful Resources:** *Fortified Marriages Resource page: [www.fortifiedmarriages.com](http://www.fortifiedmarriages.com) - the Fortified Marriages Manual and Workbook is a great tool for better understanding our spouse.*

**Articles to Check Out:**

*Who Did You Marry? Understanding Your Spouse* by Teri & Dr. Paul Reisser

*Understand Your Spouse* by Steve and Cindy Wright

*Living With Your Wife In an Understanding Way* by Steve and Cindy Wright