

Satisfy



To fulfill a desire or need of another

God created mankind with needs; first a need for Him and then a need for people and community. The marriage relationship is a place to have needs satisfied - some needs such as sexual needs are *only* meant to be satisfied in marriage. Our definition of satisfy; *to fulfill a desire or need of another* is not about what we receive, but about what we give. Love is giving - giving as Jesus gave of Himself. Yes, giving gifts and material things are good but satisfying emotional needs tend to have a far great affect on spouses and marital relationships.

The first step toward satisfying our spouse's desires or needs is a *desire* to be used of God to fulfill those needs or desires. It requires dying to self and loving a Christ loves. I think of the Kenn Kington quote: "If you will be the person God created you to be and find out how you can give yourself to someone else by meeting their needs and making them happy, you discover joy, fulfillment and peace in ways you can't imagine." We are commanded to love others - especially, our spouse. John 15 records Jesus saying that if we love Him, we will love others - love others by giving of our selves.

The second step is to *know* our spouse's needs and desires. We need to know and understand our spouse and his or her needs. What is their love language? What are their emotional needs? It is a matter of spending time with our spouse and connecting with him or her. Why not ask? What a concept! To ask our spouse what they need! The first time I sat down with Carmen and asked her what she needed, she just started to cry. I had never asked her! 1 Peter 3:7 tells husbands to live with their wives in an understanding way. We can understand our spouse, *if* we make some effort.

The last step is to *do it!* To make the effort to do things to satisfy our spouse's needs. (No, that does *not* mean fulfilling sinful or wrong desires!) There are so many ways we can seek to *satisfy* our spouse. I will tell you from experience that to unselfishly seek to fulfill a spouse's desires and needs does bring *joy, fulfillment and peace* in ways that are truly amazing! Seek to satisfy your spouse!

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

The *Fortified Marriages Manual and Workbook* is a great tool to help couples understand each other and satisfy each other's needs.