

A Marriage Minute™

A simple help to make your marriage just a little better this week.



GIVING FREELY

Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

-2 Cor. 9:7

John was upset because his wife, Mary, wouldn't give him more sex. After expressing his anger every way he could, John convinced Mary that she wasn't being a "good Christian wife," so Mary began to give him more sex, but it just didn't satisfy. Why? Because Mary was doing it out of obedience, compulsion, a sense of obligation. Now John resented the fact that she "just wasn't into it." The truth is that John had her body, but he didn't have her heart. Every man wants to be desired. If there is no desire sex becomes a ritual, through which both parties come to resent each other. What then is the answer to this timeless problem? John has to change his focus from the physical to the emotional. He has to set out to win Mary's heart again, and do whatever it will take to help her *feel* loved and cared for. The natural response will be a desire for relationship, which finds expression in a true heart-felt desire for sex. Then "love making" will be body, soul and spirit. She will want to make love more, because God will put it in her heart to give, and it will be genuine. John may continue to demand the physical act only to continue in his frustration and feelings of inadequacy, because he's not desirable, or he can work to meet Mary's emotional needs, and wait until God puts it in her heart to give, freely and unconditionally, simply because she loves and desires him. It may involve a waiting period, but it's more than worth the wait to receive not just sex, but love in all its fullness.

Question to ask each other for dialogue: "Do we have an issue with sex, and feeling pressured to perform for our spouse, instead of freely giving?"

Prayer for both of us: "Lord, change our hearts so that we will give not out of compulsion or obligation but help us to give freely from hearts of desire.

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