

WHAT MEN AND WOMEN WANT

By Rev. Bill Banuchi

This Christmas many families are being financially challenged as never before as a result of a failing national economy. But alas! We can give one another gifts that are priceless and enduring if we're willing to go to the One who already paid the price for our eternal and abundant life. But first we must understand what it is that we really want, otherwise we may waste our time and energy buying gifts that no one wants or needs. What a let-down! Let's take a look at what men and women really want.

WHAT MEN WANT

In short, men want to feel significant and desired. I've often said that men get a bum wrap when it comes to the whole sex thing. "All they think about is sex!" How many times have we heard that said about men? Well, I've got news for you. It goes even deeper than that. The deepest driving emotional need for the average man is to feel significant and desired, especially in the act of making love. You know, the old "*Me Tarzan - You Jane!*" syndrome. That's why when a wife gives of herself reluctantly, without a sense of genuine desire, it leaves the husband with an emotional emptiness. Perhaps the physical need was met, but the emotional need is not. Yes, men do have emotional needs whether they admit it or not. In fact, men may not seem to hurt as easily as women, but they hurt deeper. It gets complicated when you consider the conflicting emotional needs in play. The husband wants to feel that his wife would sacrifice for him –after all, that is love. But then he resents the fact that it had to be a sacrifice for her to make love to him. After all, she should be passionately desiring the chance to make love with this special guy. The male ego, however, says, "If it's going to be a sacrifice on your part then keep it; I don't need anybody!" Then he goes out and has an affair with some woman who makes him feel significant and desired. It isn't easy for the wife at this point because she doesn't want to fake the desire. In fact she often desires to have desire. Very often she ends up justifying her lack of desire by recounting all his offenses toward her. Now we're stuck. Time for counseling.

WHAT WOMEN WANT

In short, women want to feel safe, secure and validated. They want to feel that their opinions, thoughts and ideas have value to their husbands. They want to feel the liberty to express who they are without fear of being discounted, judged, corrected or ridiculed. The male ego may want him to feel like a "King in his castle," but the woman wants to feel like a queen, cherished and adored for who she is, not for what she does around the house, or for being a good mother, a good cook, or even a good provider. She wants to feel "special" for who she is, not for what she does for everyone else. She still wants to be "romanced" by her man. Care and protection are primary. The husband needs to show her he cares about how she feels even when he may not agree, or even understand how she feels. He needs to protect her from the hurts of others, as much as he can, but most of all, from the hurts that he himself might inflict on her by his unkind, harsh words. Women often get involved in affairs when someone else provides the safety, romance and unconditional acceptance their hearts are yearning for.