



CCN WEEKLY SOLUTIONS SERIES
THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26, 2007



It's Not Easy Being a Superhero: Superman

Featuring
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Best-selling co-author of Boundaries series,
and author of How People Grow

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I. Introduction

Women seem to be looking for men to be perfect

A problem: What women see as perfect isn't always what they need

II. Understanding A Man's Growth Path

The process:

- He's born empty
- When his needs are met, he wants to separate from Mom
- But he's enmeshed with Mom
- He begins to identify with Dad, gets power to unplug from Mom
- He still loves Mom, but feels free to venture out into the world strong and secure
- He goes out into the yard with other kids, starts to do stuff—and fails
- Parents teach him how to metabolize failure, be forgiven, and do better
- Out in the world he finds a place to land: discovers his talents and identity

The completely mature man has had love and security

- He can need and want a woman and have confidence she'll want him
- He can be in relationship and be free from her

The problem: It doesn't always happen well: approach-avoidance conflict

III. Women Want Connection

A woman wants a man who listens

- She doesn't want to be fixed, she wants to understand that he understands
- Learn to empathize: tune in and ask some questions

A woman wants a man who's strong enough to need her

- She wants to feel like he draws strength from confiding in her

Two problems:

- He can't connect this way if he's afraid she'll control him
- If Mommy didn't love him, he needs the woman too much, so becomes possessive, controlling, domineering, engulfing, jealous...

Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.
—Colossians 3:19

A woman wants a man who can stand up for what's important (her)

- This comes from the little boy's ability to stand up to his mother
- He needs to be able to say no to mom and yes to wife

IV. Women Want Power

Initiating power: the man takes the initiative, pursues her

- She wants to respond to his initiating desire for her
- She wants to be desired without hesitancy
- It's not her job to make him secure, however
- She wants to be pursued and taken care of with forethought and planning: "goal-oriented aggression"

She also wants to be able to initiate

- But she can't if it will diminish him and make him feel controlled

A woman doesn't want to win all the time

- If the guy makes her too powerful in his head, like Mom, he's scared of her

Husbands, in the same way, be considerate as you live with your wives; treat them with respect as the weaker partner and heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.—1 Peter 3:7

- If he's scared of her, then when she's weak and vulnerable he can't be strong for her

V. Women Want Love

“We need to talk”

- Men shy away from this: they're not good at hearing criticism
- But it's a good thing: she's saying “I want you, I want to connect”

If the man doesn't feel strong, it's hard to hear this: he makes her the bad mom

She needs to be loved the way Christ loves the church

- Paraphrasing Ephesians: Christ sees us clean, white as snow, even though we're not perfect
- Optimism is the order of Creation: the Bible begins at Genesis 1, not Genesis 3
- God is good, Creation is good, God is restoring creation to its original perfection and that's what a man's love is supposed to do for a woman
- See her as the wonderful creature God created, before she had to hide behind the shame of the fig leaf or the Botox

Next Week on “Solutions”

It’s Not Easy Being a Superhero: Wonder Woman

Resources:

BOOKS:

It’s Not My Fault

By Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend
www.cloudtownsend.com

How People Grow

By Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend
www.zondervan.com

Hiding From Love

By Dr. John Townsend
www.zondervan.com



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