

SHE DOES HER HUSBAND GOOD

It was a Friday morning when Ruby called, "May I come over and talk with you? My husband wants me to get divorce papers, today! But, I don't want a divorce. I don't know what to do."

I told her to come on over. I would do what I could.

She looked so sad and frazzled, a mother of three small children. I felt sad for her and hoped I could help her.

When we were comfortably seated on my couch, I asked, "Do you know why he wants a divorce? She shook her head "no."

I knew in my heart that this young wife's husband must surely have given her some signals as to what he was unhappy about in their home and marriage. I decided to ask her a few questions. "What does he complain about?"

"My husband says I never fix meals for him," she began. "He says I don't care about his needs, only the children's. He says all I fix are hot dogs, which he hates."

"He complains the house is always cluttered and messy, and that I look awful when he comes home from work. All he does is complain. I don't know what to do. Please help me."

"Well," I began, "Let's take the problems you mentioned, one at a time.

"First, is he right when he says you don't cook meals for Him.?"

"Yes, but why should I? He isn't nice to me." she answered.

"How long has it been since you fixed meals for him?" I asked,

"About three months," she replied.

"Would you be willing to go home and fix one of his favorite meals? You could stop at the store on your way home and pick up his favorite food." I suggested. "Would you be willing to do that?"

"Yes" she affirmed her willingness.

"Secondly, what are you wearing when he comes home from work?" I asked

"Sweat pants and sweat top", she answered. "But" she continued, "the one time I did dress up, he asked me who I was dressing up for, the mail man? So I never dressed up for him again."

"Maybe it was a shock for him to see you 'fixed up,' I replied. "If you clean up for him every night before he comes

home, before long he'll get used to it and not make those unkind remarks. You are a very attractive young woman and the outfit you have on is clean and pretty. I think he'll like how you look."

"Thirdly, how about the house? Is he right when he says it is always cluttered and messy? What does it look like?"

"Well, he says there are always dirty diapers and toys on the living room floor when he comes home."

"Is he right?" I asked

"Yes" she answered shyly.

I shared that Jim and I have four children. I know the difficulty of keeping the house looking nice, toys picked up and fixing good meals. Each evening, before Jim comes home, I have the children pick up the toys from the living room and the driveway. I have dinner started, so he will feel welcome in his home.

"Would you be willing to pick up the dirty diapers and have the children pick up their toys before he comes home? You can make the room presentable and fix his favorite meal. He works hard for you and the children. Would you be willing to make these three changes? Your husband will appreciate it and have better feelings toward you."

I shared with her one of my favorite counseling verses Romans 15:13. KJV

"Now may the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace, in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

(emphasis added.)

To those I counsel, I have them read the verse aloud or if she is uncomfortable reading aloud, I will read it. I emphasize each phrase. What a "precious promise." Her spirits were lifted. We prayed together and she left my home with God's hope.

RESULTS

The next day she called to tell me how well everything had gone. When he came home, she had on a clean pretty outfit, the house was picked up, and his favorite dinner; pot roast, cooked with potatoes and carrots, was ready. She had even set the table with candles.

He did a double take. "Who's coming for dinner?" he asked gruffly.

"No one" I told him. (I always suggest they make their answers brief. Men don't like us to go on and on...)

"Well, who's coming after dinner?" he asked.

"No one" she answered again, briefly.

"Well, why is everything so nice?" he queried.

"Because I love you," she answered simply.

"Everything went well," she shared. "He didn't even mention the divorce. I think we are going to make it," she said with a new joy in her voice and a new purpose in her life.

Praise the Lord! Another marriage saved by teaching the wife how to love her husband. By her changing her attitude and

doing something he had been asking her to do that she had not done for a long time. Can you see how SIMPLE things can improve a marriage?

God loves you and wants the best for your life, family, and marriage. Proverbs 31:12 KJV

"She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life."