

The Emotional Bank Account

Ten deposits into our wife's emotional bank account:

1. Spend _____ with her _____.

Three ways we can love our wives. Agape, (moral love) -- Phileo, (emotional) -- and -- Eros, (physical)

It is often hard for men to give emotionally unless there is a sexual component. With women it is difficult to experience a meaningful sexual relationship until she is satisfied emotionally.

2. _____ to her _____.

With men communication is rational -- with women it is emotional--a way to express feelings.

3. _____ her _____.

Happy wives do not feel as though they have to perform to be a successful wife.

A true test of our character is how we react when things do not go our way.

4. _____ her _____.

Unconditional love is a big problem today. It is a security issue with our wives. What would your or my life be like if God put conditions on His acceptance of us?

Happy wives do not feel like they have to perform or conform to be a successful wife.

5. Be _____ to her.

Never -- never ever use the "D" word. Be careful of that "wandering eye".

6. _____ her with _____.

It has been determined that in human communication for every one positive statement made there are eleven negative. Remember that the bible says, "*The tongue has the power of life and death*".

7. Take care of her _____.

The number one threat to marriage today is money. We can choose one of four life-styles:

- We can live ABOVE our means
- AT our means
- WITHIN our means
- BELOW our means

A good rule is to never make important financial decisions without your wife's input and agreement.

8. _____ with her.

It is important to have a healthy sense of humor. Hang out with some fun people. Go to or rent some funny movies from time-to-time.

9. After God, but before all others, make her your _____.

You and your wife are in it for the long haul. No one, not even your kids, will ever have the place in your life that your wife has.

10. Be her _____.

This can be a natural by-product of investing wisely in the other nine areas.

Talk with her often. Ask questions that are stimulating and uplifting. What are your dreams? What would you do if you had more time for yourself? How could we do more together?

In his popular book, "The Marriage Builder", Larry Crabb says that in all communication we are doing one of two things, we are either *ministering* or *manipulating*. A good exercise for us is to ask ourselves the question , what is my motive?