

HomeMakers Spring Newsletter

April, May, June 2011

Do Love and Laundry Really Go Together?

A Lesson from Donna

Dear Lori,

Peace to you at this Easter and Spring Season.

I recently overheard a conversation that caused me to think about LOVE....AGAIN!

Two young women were talking about a wedding. One of the women, a 38-year-old single mother of two children with different fathers, is describing with great enthusiasm the wedding she is planning.

She describes their great a love for one another and the plans.... 125 guests, disc jockey, flowers and dresses; and concludes by saying, "and we found the perfect minister at the bridal expo! We really liked his style and he will let us create whatever vows we want."

"Is that the condition of love and weddings?" I asked, "The great find is a minister who has a 'good style'?"

After years of study and teaching on the subject of love and marriage, I believe the wedding is merely the beginning of a lifelong process of handing over absolutely everything, and not simply everything that one owns but everything that one is, to one another.

Timothy Keller says, "Marriage is the highest priority in life, more powerful in its impact than

Table of Contents

[Sabbatical Updates](#)
[HomeMakers is here for you!](#)
[From our listeners...](#)
[A Lesson from Donna](#)
[Love & Laundry](#)
[Supporting Your Man](#)

Sabbatical Updates

[HomeMakers Activities](#)

Facebook!



We're baaaack! HomeMakers is making a return to Facebook. Improvements yet to come, but check out what we've got so far, and check IN with your HomeMakers friends...we'd love to hear from you. Click on the icon above, search for Homemakers by Choice, and start writing on our wall!

[Thank You!](#)

your relationship with your parents, and more important than your job, children, absolutely ANYTHING." Letting go of yourself to your spouse in both large and small choices allows for your love to grow.

The strength of marriage and our love toward our spouses allows us to move out into the world of circumstances, especially difficult circumstances, in strength. Love has many definitions. But I propose to you that love is modeled and taught by Jesus when He says, "Regard others (all others but especially your spouse) more importantly than yourself."

Real love, growing love, marital love, love that last a lifetime is full of large and small choices that demonstrate higher regard for my spouse. It is simple, but not easy.

Following a partially successful surgical procedure on my leg which left me with pain and discomfort, I needed help with the bandage, etc.

My husband came in from a long day, and was drooping in the summer heat of Arizona, yet when he saw me struggling he came to my rescue. His tender hands and gentle spirit brought comfort. This is how "love" looks.

As we prepare for Spring I encourage you to ask yourself frequently, "Am I regarding my spouse more importantly than myself?"

"God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply." - Hudson Taylor



Donna Otto, Author
Founder of HomeMakers

Love & Laundry **Expectant Bride, Reluctant Wife**

You know the expression "The Honeymoon is over"? We all know exactly what that means. If you are married, perhaps you are still in the Honeymoon phase. Or...perhaps for you the

HomeMakers is in month seven of our one-year Sabbatical, which began October 1, 2011.

We continue to see God work through the ministry of HomeMakers, and are greatly encouraged by the support, prayers and feedback we've received!

Thank you, thank you to all of you, friends, for being a part of this ministry. We are here because of you and for you!

DVD Study Guides coming soon!

We are in the process of re-formatting the Study Guides that go with the Choices Matter DVD Series.

The new guides are more in-depth and are created especially for a small group study format.

The guides will be available to all who purchase a Choices Matter DVD.

HomeMakers is here for you!

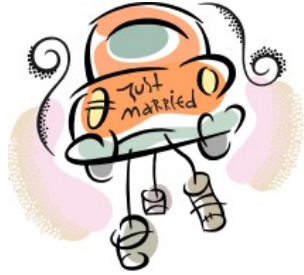
In addition to [Facebook](#), you can find encouragement and support every day:

Podcasts:
HomeMakers on [iTunes](#).
Updated daily!

Website:
www.homemakersbychoice.org

Free Resources:
Download articles [here](#)

Honeymoon has been over for a long, long time. Think back to your wedding day and your honeymoon, and the happiness that surrounded those times.



What on earth happened between the anticipation, joy and excitement of your wedding day...and the reality of TODAY, with never-ending mounds of laundry, piles of dirty dishes and a husband who seems more frog than prince? Can love and laundry really go together?

The answer is YES! And what happened between your wedding day and today, is that perhaps you've forgotten some important things:

You've forgotten who the enemy is

And it's not your husband. Ephesians 6:12 says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

When you view your husband as the enemy, Satan has you right where he wants you - dividing the strong force that you two represent together.

So put on your armour, ladies. (Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Faith, Salvation, Word of the Spirit). God has already won the final battle. Go out and fight for what matters most. Behave as if your husband is your hero. Then work to support your ally!

You've forgotten your job

Here is the job description for "wife":

- Respect your husband
- Admire your husband
- Be a helper to your husband

Donna's books for sale:
Great tools, great prices [here](#).

From our listeners...

Encouraging words from
PodCast
listeners



Here are a few comments
direct from our iTunes home
page:

by goldfish88

I've enjoyed the few episodes
available of this podcast...
discussions of homemaking
from a Christian perspective
are what I need to hear! Keep
up the good work--there are
so few good podcasts on this
important topic!

such a blessings

by c**s

This pod cast just started
streaming through iTunes, but
I have been listening to it for
well over three years and it
has been SUCH a blessing to
me. If you have been wishing
and praying for an older
woman to come along and
mentor you in the Lord, then
this podcast is just perfect for
you. I feel like I know Donna,
lol. The teachings and insite
they share have challenged
me and helped me grow. I
listened to it for a long time
before I met my husband,
after I got married, and now
that I have become a mother
and it has been a blessing
through every stage.

Thank you

Oh sure, sometimes it's hard to respect, admire and support the guy you married, you know the guy who...

- Leaves his socks on the floor
- Puts his dishes in the sink, when the dishwasher is inches away
- Did not help you bathe the children or tuck them into bed, AGAIN last night
- Does not talk to you enough during the day, but knows where to find you at bedtime

Right, that's him - your husband. Remember that respect is not an emotion, it's an action and a choice. It is choosing to show respect and kindness to the man God has positioned as your husband. And God will honor that choice in your life and in your marriage!

You've forgotten to forgive

There are no doubt some very real wrongs and very real hurts in your marriage. Forgiveness isn't easy, and isn't even possible apart from the grace of God.

Remember all that God has forgiven you, and pray for the grace to see your husband in the same way.

For more information and resources on this subject, check out the following Podcasts:

[Stand by Your Man](#) - March 25, 2011

[Why Stay Married?](#) - February 21, 2011

[Marriage Q&A Roundtable](#) - March 31, 2011

Click on the iTunes logo to access



Supporting Your Man

Choose your love and love your choice

(from "loving life as an at-home mom," by Donna Otto)

by Unaflor19

This podcast have helped me so much!

From our email files...

Dear Homemakers By Choice Team,

I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude for all you do. I am a married stay-at-home-mother of a 1-year old, living outside of Atlanta, Georgia. I literally stumbled upon your podcasts when I was searching for something to listen to while cleaning my house. Boy was I in for a treat! The Lord certainly knew I needed to hear each of your podcasts! I downloaded them all and have begun to listen to one each day.

I am now eagerly awaiting the arrival of Donna's book! I have a tidy home, but my closets could use some help! :)

Anyway, I hope this little note will encourage you in your daily work. You are each a blessing to us out here that are listening in and learning, growing and stretching spiritually. Thanks to the motivation I receive from your encouraging messages, my paperwork is filed neatly, diapers are folded, laundry going at full speed, dinner is in the fridge ready to pop in the oven, the baby is napping and I had a moment to write this note.

Thankfully, JK

And from our Facebook archives...

Thank you for your wonderful ministry- it has been invaluable to me as we are stationed overseas in Japan....

The day you said "I do" you chose your love; since then you have been learning to love your choice. And for many of you, it may be the most difficult learning experience of your life!

Through your marriage vows, you and your husband became one. On that precious day, perhaps many years ago, you granted him complete access to your life.

Next to your relationship with God, nurturing your relationship with that one special man is the most important responsibility you have. Your understanding of the concepts of complete accessibility, entrance, and surrender are essential to your success as a wife.

Getting to know him

I encourage you to do absolutely everything you can to discover who your husband is, why he does what he does, and how he arrives at the decisions he makes in his life.

If he's like most men, he is much less verbal than you are. Learn to draw him out by asking good questions and being a good listener. Learn also to demonstrate your gratefulness for who he is and what he does. Show your appreciation in tangible ways with expressions of physical affection.

Demonstrate your support for your husband by agreeing with him whenever possible. And if agreement is not possible, be willing to share your thoughts on the matter lovingly and, finally, to surrender your will cheerfully when needed. Learn to understand why he makes the choices he makes and then support him in those choices.

Opposites attract

Knowing and loving your man includes being willing to recognize and celebrate your differences. Your personality styles and many of your interests and tastes are different.

Allow your personality traits to complement each other. Make your differences assets to your marriage.

Your differences will provide lots of opportunities for conflict. Turn this negative to a positive by learning to recognize and celebrate your

our military family has greatly benefited from your podcasts! Thank you so much for making

differences and make them work for you instead of against you.

Living with another human being

It sure is easy for us to look at our husbands and wish they would change. I am reminded of something I heard Elisabeth Elliot say when addressing a group of women with similar wishes. "You've married a sinner," she said.

She paused, and the women grew noticeably enthusiastic about the idea. Just about the time the audience was convinced that their husbands were the problem, Elisabeth added, "And he married one too!"

Yes, we married sinners. But we need to remember tht we are just as guilty of imperfection as they are.

How easy it is to blame our husbands for lack of moral support and for not appreciating the sacrifices we make raising children and keeping a home.

Remember that one of your greatest needs in a marriage relationship is for financial support and security. Your husband works hard to make it possible for you to stay at home and to provide the security you need.

You probably have greater opportunity to attend Bible studies, and to listen to Christian music and broadcasts. It's not that your husband is less spiritual than you are. He just may not have the same access to resources.

Supportive suggestions

Here is a quick list of ideas about how you can support the man who works so hard to you can be an at-home mom.

1. Keep an orderly household
2. Institute a "home free" policy
3. Put your man first
4. Live sacrificially
5. Send him off in the morning with breakfast and support
6. Study your ever-changing husband

Want more details on these and other helpful ideas? Check out "loving life as an at-home

them available online. God bless you all! MBP



HomeMakers is back on Facebook! We are still working on our page, but please stop by for a visit and check us out (search Homemakers by Choice)!

26 Ways to Build Your Marriage

Always kiss each other upon departing.

Be there for your spouse. Always.

Create an environment of love.

Do it. Now.

Escape from the kids.

Fight fair.

Give of your time.

Handle with care.

Inspire your spouse with your love.

Judge not.

Kep your good memories alive.

Listen to your spouse.

Make love with your spouse's needs foremost.

Never go to bed mad.

Offer to handle an unpleasant chore.

Praise your spouse.

Quality Time isn't just for kids.

mom," by Donna Otto on our website, www.homemakersbychoice.org.

-Excerpted from "loving life as an at-home mom" by Donna Otto. Click [here](#) for details and purchase information.



FEATURED PRODUCT:

Wife of the 21st Century Choices Matter Series II DVD



The second in a series of four DVDs based on "Choices Matter." Topics on this DVD include:

- What Cosmo Doesn't Tell You
- All to the Glory of God
- Simply Submit
- Talking to One Another
- Don't Hide Under Your Veil
- Expectant Bride, Reluctant Wife

Price: \$10

Order online at www.homemakersbychoice.org/products.

Respect your spouse's feelings. **S**ay what you feel when you feel it.
Tell your spouse you love him or her every day. Every day. Every day. Every day.
Understand your differences.
Valentine's Day is every day.
Walk together. Talk together.
EXcite your spouse as only you know how.
You can never say "I love you" too often.
Zero in on your spouse's little passions.

Donna Otto resource

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