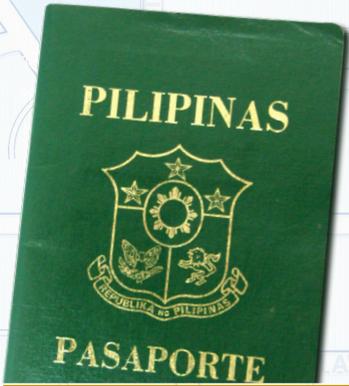


WARM UP

When my wife and I were missionaries in the Philippines we attended a local church in Cebu. The sermons were mostly in Cebuano but the pastor would put in enough English so that at least we knew what he was talking about. From time to time there were visiting ministries. One week we were really looking forward to hearing an American missionary. He'd been in the Philippines a long time, he was a great missionary and we'd heard he was a good preacher. So far so good! Well, he preached with passion, he preached with conviction - but we couldn't understand a word of it because the entire message was in Cebuano. It meant absolutely nothing to us because he didn't speak our language.



READ 1 John 3:3:18

QUESTIONS

1. How is showing love with actions and in truth different to loving with words?

BACKGROUND

We have to show love by our actions because love is not just a feeling, it's something we do to make others feel loved. Love is something you do, not something you feel, and loved is what others feel when you do what you should do.

Every one of us communicates and receives love in a different language but unless we speak in the language our wife understands, it doesn't matter how sincere or passionate we are, she just won't get it. There are 5 love languages: talk, treasure, togetherness, task and touch. All of them express love but one of them will be the primary way that your wife's emotional tank is filled.



2. Go round the group and let each one share an example of how you (or someone else) showed love with actions.

3. What difference do you think it would make in your home if your wife really felt loved by you?



CONSIDER THIS

"We often say that marriages are made in heaven. The fact is that the institution of marriage was made in heaven. In each individual marriage, however, God gives the couple a 'Do It Yourself Kit'. They are to work out the marriage on earth. This 'kit' consists of the teachings of the Bible concerning marriage." David T. Moore

Most of us know that when we buy something and the packaging outside advises us that there is "some assembly required" it can be tricky, but as men we're usually up to the challenge. Let's bring this into our idea of marriage - there's more to it than bringing home the prize, there is "some assembly required" if we are going to build a really good and lasting marriage in which our wives feel loved through all the changing seasons of life.



IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

WRAP UP

Men, are we too busy, too important or, dare I say it, too lazy to find out about love languages and to learn how to effectively communicate our love to our wives?

Discuss: How can you learn about the 5 love languages? Make a list of books, CDs and DVDs that deal with this issue.

How will you discover your wife's primary love language?

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

I will honour the promises I made to my wife on our wedding day.

I will make the effort to discover my wife's love language and use it so that she will feel loved.