

How To Improve Your Man
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I may be slow at times but sometimes I get an amazing grasp of the obvious. I went into the bathroom and there hanging on the wall was a little plaque that my wife had just put up. It simply stated, 'If we can put men on the moon, why can't we teach them to pick up their socks?'

I started laughing. Point made.

So ladies, how do you improve your man? Let me share with you a few perspectives from this man's point of view.

Think about animal acts. Have you ever watched them? It's amazing what they can get animals to do! If you watch closely, however, you will come to understand why they do all the neat stuff they do. After each trick, they look up to the trainer. In the trainers' pocket or small pouch there is a treat. If you want to get a dog or a dolphin or a bird to do something, give them a treat.

I enjoy watching animals, I also enjoy watching people. One thing I've noticed in the man-woman relationship in all my watching is that men are a lot like the animals. If you want a dolphin to do something, you give him a fish. If you want to get the dog to jump through the hoop, give him a treat. In a like manner, if you give us a fish when we do something good, then we'll do it again. Give us a treat, and we'll also jump through that hoop.

Some women seem to believe that the best way to get their man to improve is to nag him into it. Some have a tongue sharper than any harpies'.

The Scriptures tell us that "The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down." There are some things that a woman does that build the people she cares about, and there are others that tear them down.

Most women agree that every man needs work done on him. However, if you approach your husband like a personal home improvement project, you'll probably run into complications. If you say, "I've got to fix this guy!", chances are the fix will come hard. Is it stubbornness or ego or just selective hearing? I'm not sure, probably some of all of these. One thing I do know, however. When a man is pushed, he tends to go the other way - not come your direction. For me, the stronger the wind blows, the stronger I resist it. (Yes, even pastors can be obtuse!)

If you want to improve your man, lift him up. Honor him. Value him. Tell him what's good about him. Praise him when he does something right, even if it's just a small improvement. Give him a fish if you want him to do it some more. Or, like one lady of wisdom shared, "Water what you want to grow."

When you consistently have a ministry of encouragement and affirmation in your man's life, you'll notice that when he feels safe and valued by you, he's a lot more likely to listen when you need to tell him something that's hard to hear. He'll know you love him and that you want him to be the best he can be.

Ruth Graham, wife of Evangelist Billy Graham, states it better than I ever could. Ruth made the comment, "It is my job to love Billy. It's God's job to change him!" Amen.