

The incredible power of a woman

Pastor John Hicks

First United Methodist Church

Men, the secret is out, if it ever was a secret. Women can have incredible power over us. Before you hoo haw me, let me share that most guys can relate to the trauma of trying to work up the courage to just call a girl up and ask her for a simple date. The comic strip "Luan" is currently doing a series on this man dilemma. There are several advertisements on TV which make light of a guy rehearsing the macho tone he was going to use on the phone when he called this girl to ask her on a second date. The reality is that there have been a number of women who were not asked out because the man chickened out.

Whether we like to admit it or not, a woman has this mind-boggling power to make a man feel very big inside - or very small. I have seen a 300 pound manly man totally cower in front of a petite 95 pound woman. What women sometimes don't understand is that their own happiness may depend on how they use this tremendous God-given power. Proverbs 14 states that a wise woman builds her house, but the foolish one tears hers down with her own hands.

The woman of Proverbs 31 is one who clearly builds up her man and "is worth far more than rubies" "The heart of her husband trusts in her. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life. Her husband is known in the gates. Her children rise up and bless her, her husband also, and he praises her."

The implication is that the man is highly regarded in the community largely because of the kind of woman his wife is. I believe there is some truth to the saying that behind every successful man is a woman helping make him so. I used to share with one of my colleagues that I thought that one of the best things about his ministry was his wife. I can say the same about me now because of the wonderful woman I'm married to. God is good and I am blessed.

Proverbs also talks about a woman who tears down her house with her own hands. Up front, I don't think any woman intends for this to happen, but in her frustration, she focuses on what the man in her life is doing wrong much more than what he's doing right. She doesn't realize what her criticism and attacks do. In trying to nag and push him to take the leadership he should be taking, she may actually be causing him to retreat. And the more dominating and controlling and nagging and critical she becomes, the less the chances he will ever be all he ought to be and what she needs for him to be.

With Valentines' Day coming up, there is a lot of talk about what we men need to do for the women in our lives. We can't tell or show them enough times that we love them. But there is also the responsibility that women should have for men. We thrive when we are uplifted and honored.

Inside most of us men is an individual who can blossom or wither, depending in part on the godly wisdom of a woman who loves him. That woman, in the life of any man, has incredible power to build him up or tear him down; to make him or to break him