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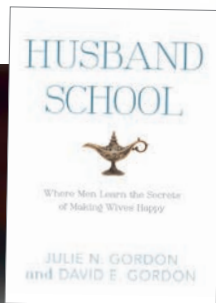
Less than 2% of Tennessee lawyers are board-certified.

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Understand How Anger and Harsh Words Affect Your Wife



In my monthly newsletters, I have been discussing lessons from the book that my wife and I wrote together, *Husband School, Where Men Learn the Secrets of Making Wives Happy*. As I repeatedly say, marriage is not an unpredictable, chaotic situation. You can learn the skills and patterns to promote harmony, friendship, and affection in marriage. Don't assume that the mind of your wife is unknowable. The mind of a woman has been dissected, analyzed, and categorized. It is neither impossible nor difficult to understand.

The lesson this month is called *Understand How Anger and Harsh Words Affect Your Wife*.

Years ago, author Gary Smalley said that women are like butterflies and men are like buffalos. He explains this analogy by saying that if you throw a rock at a buffalo, they barely feel it. But if you throw the same rock at a butterfly, you do serious harm. In like manner, women are often more easily wounded than men. A friend who coached men's and women's basketball said that he would sometimes speak harsh truths to motivate his male players. But those same harsh words would make his female players cry.

We all prefer to behave exactly like we feel and to say exactly what we think. But self-control is a great virtue. Otherwise, we are like the wild horse with no bridle. In Proverbs 25:28, Solomon wrote, "A person without self-control is like a breached city, one with no walls." Set yourself apart from the norm by developing self-control with your speech.

What should you do when you speak with words or tone that you know is wrong? Humans are notoriously guilty for not asking for forgiveness when they are rude, angry, or selfish. But humility is a sign of true greatness. Nothing is harder to say than, "I was wrong. Will you please forgive me?" However, asking for forgiveness is vital to every healthy, intimate relationship.

Opinions vary from experts for what seems to be the right ratio of positive-to-negative comments in marriage. Some experts say 7-to-1; others say more. So what is obviously true is that your marriage should primarily be an environment with positive interactions. A marriage with frequent negativity is in trouble. Hold your tongue, and instead, drip some sweet honey on your wife.

Make it your goal to never (yes, never!) use harshness, disrespect, or increased volume when talking to your wife. She will adore you for it!

Next month: *Understand Your Wife's Desire for the One Thing*

If you would like a free copy of *Husband School*, you can get one at my office. In addition, they are available on Amazon.

Beware icy walkways!

Winter weather means snow and ice, which means slick walkways. Tread carefully this winter on sidewalks, roadways, and parking lots as a slip-and-fall can cause serious injury. If you do slip and fall on the ice you may be able to hold the property owner accountable if they neglected to clear the walkway in a timely manner.

In general, proving fault in a slip-and-fall case can be difficult. First, it must be shown that the injured party did everything that a "reasonable" person would have done to be safe. We are all responsible for being aware of our surroundings and doing our best to avoid dangerous conditions. Second, it must be shown that the property owner/possessor did one of the following:

- ▶ **Knew about a dangerous condition on the property and did not fix it,**
- ▶ **Caused a dangerous condition and did not fix it,**
- ▶ **Should have known about a dangerous condition because another "reasonable" person in their position would have known about it.**

Proving that the property owner is liable for a slip-and-fall in icy or snowy conditions can be especially tricky. Most jurisdictions give property owners a certain amount of time after a storm to clear sidewalks and parking lots. In the dangerous case of melting/refreezing, leeway may be given to allow for time to address the danger. The injured party must also be able to show that they took appropriate precautions to avoid the injury – for example, wearing proper footwear.

If you or a loved one fell in icy conditions and sustained an injury, contact our office for a free consultation and we can help you determine the best course of action.

Enter to win a \$100 Kroger gift card!



Pictured here is David with his family at Thanksgiving dinner. Five of these people are David's children. Circle the faces of the five you think are his children, then take a pic of the pic (make sure your name and address are in the pic too) and text to **901-818-4889**. All of the correct responses will be entered into a drawing for a **\$100 Kroger gift card**.

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The 4 distractions that lead to AUTO ACCIDENTS

You've surely heard by now that distracted driving is on the rise and causing serious problems on our roadways. Cell phones are responsible for much of this rise, but not all of it. Anything a driver does while behind the wheel that takes their attention away from the task at hand – driving – is a distraction. If a driver takes their eyes off the road for only three seconds while travelling 45 mph, they will cover about 200 feet – blind. To stay safe on the road, put the phone away and keep your attention where it belongs by avoiding the following 4 distractions:

- 1. Visual distractions.** Watching a video, looking at a map, checking out something on the side of the road.
- 2. Audible distractions.** A passenger talking to you, music playing too loud.
- 3. Physical distractions.** Answering the phone, eating a snack, putting on makeup.
- 4. Mental distractions.** Thinking about a work problem, shopping list, or weekend plans.

Driving a vehicle is a responsibility that must be taken seriously. We sometimes get so used to driving that it feels like second nature and we get too comfortable behind the wheel. A vehicle is not an extension of your home or office. It is a large piece of metal, glass, and plastic that is travelling at extremely high speeds and can kill in an instant. It must be given the respect it deserves.

