

## Understanding My Husband

(This series of lessons was compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources and many teachers over a period of thirty years. The compiler is very grateful for their wisdom.)

### Introduction:

- A. Eph. 5:22, 33 - In Paul's inspired instructions for what husbands and wives render to each other, the wife is told to respect her husband. We conclude that this is his first need in the relationship as leader
- B. What kind of leader must he be?
  - 1. Psalm 128 - This kind of leader deserves respect; Elaborate
- C. This is the primary quality you should be looking for in a husband - a spiritually minded leader
  - 1. All other concerns are secondary and do not justify withholding respect for his role as leader - appearance, amount of money he makes, his personality, his mannerisms
  - 2. It is the well-known propensity of wives to try to adjust and remake their husbands into some romantic, heroic ideal that no man can live up to
  - 3. Books that have been written about couples that are distant, where in many cases the unhappiness can be traced to unrealized expectations
    - Married, But Not A Wife
    - Married, But Not A Mrs.
    - Married, But Not Best Friends
    - Married, But Not Engaged
    - Married, But Not In Love
    - Married, But Not Happy
    - Married, But Still Lonely

### D. Women often change in their attitudes toward their husbands over time

The first year of marriage, the wife says, "Honey, I'm worried about my big man. You have a bad cold. I want to put you in the hospital for a complete checkup. I know the food is terrible there, so I will bring your meals every day."

The second year: "Listen, Dear, I don't like the sound of that cough. I've called the doctor and he said I can bring you in this afternoon. Just rest in bed until time to go."

Third year: "Maybe you should lie down. I'll make you a can of soup for supper."

Fourth year: "Look, dear, be sensible. After you take out the trash and walk the dog, you should go to bed."

Fifth year: "Just go take a couple of Tylenol."

Sixth year: "Please gargle, or something, instead of sitting around barking like a seal. I think I will sleep on the couch tonight."

Seventh year: "Would you stop sneezing. What are you trying to do, give me pneumonia? Maybe you should sleep on the couch."

E. Dr. Raymond Force, Ocala, Florida, March 10, 2008 — Public speaker and author, believes that wives are sometimes "their own arch-enemies" when it comes to getting what they want out of their husbands. In his new book, *Angry Without a Cause*, Dr. Force writes: "The woman that ridicules her husband by making sarcastic remarks and subtle inferences to his lack of leadership and abilities is not only hurting her husband, but also herself. She is not only ensuring that he will have a tough time rising

above her low view of him, but she will also end up despising him for not being half the man that she has discouraged him into being.”

Dr. Force agrees that men need to reform when it comes to marital issues, but he also states that the real issues that are keeping women from having a positive effect on their husbands are often overlooked. “Most books that I have read on marriage and relationships portray men as relational clowns. Whereas, women tend to come away with little responsibility for the conflicts. It is true that most husbands need to change their approach to marriage, but many wives are unaware that their frustrated phrases and condescending remarks are pushing their men into an emotional pit.”

“Men are very emotional creatures that yearn for respect. When they don’t feel that from the women in their lives, they tend to retract into their ‘caves’. Sadly to say, many men hang out at the gym or the office because they feel more respected there than in their own homes.”

“Throughout time, women have been tempted to withhold their love and affection toward their husbands because they fail to measure up to their expectations. A woman that has given in to this temptation must realize that when she holds back from loving her husband because he doesn’t meet her standards, she is simply holding her love as a ransom until he comes up with the appropriate payment. This is a form of passive aggressive manipulation.”

F. Eph. 5:22, 33

1. The commands to respect, support, and show affection to your husband is no binding on you than the command for him to love you as Christ loves the church.
2. The command to respect your husband is not conditional on whether or not your husband keeps his command

G. 1Peter 3:1-7

1. Nothing in this passage is couched in the form of suggestions
2. It is the best description of the “helper comparable” of Gen. 2

H. What can be said about working to make the marriage work?

1. A good marriage is the union of two good forgivers.
2. A great marriage is not when the 'perfect couple' come together. It is when an imperfect couple learns to enjoy their differences.
3. As for his secret to staying married: "My wife tells me that if I ever decide to leave, she is coming with me." -- Jon BonJovi
4. Happy marriages begin when we marry the ones we love, and they blossom when we love the ones we marry.
5. In marriage, each partner is to be an encourager rather than a critic, a forgiver rather than a collector of hurts, a facilitator rather than a reformer.
6. You don't marry one person; you marry three:  
the person you think they are,  
the person they are,  
and the person they are going to become as a result of being married to you.

I. What kind of wife does God want you to be to complete the marriage, to fill what is lacking in your Adam?

1. While the man is leader in the home in matters moral, spiritual, fiscal, and practical, the woman is leader in the home emotionally, socially, and relationally.
2. The husband may be the head of the house, but the wife is the heart of the home. You fill the void that he is unable; you complete the both of you as mates

## **I. HOW TO UNDERSTAND MY HUSBAND**

- A. A husband needs a wife who is trustworthy - Prov. 31:10-12
  1. The husband can safely entrust her with his income and property
  2. More importantly, he can trust her to be truthful with him
- B. A husband needs a wife who has practical skills - Prov. 31:13-15, 21-22
  1. In his role as provider, he is limited in his ability to accomplish matters at home at the same time - 1Tim. 5:14; Titus 2:4-5
- C. A husband needs a wife who is industrious - Prov. 31:16, 24
  1. Helps with extra income or helps his income go further
- D. A husband needs a wife who is compassionate - Prov. 31:20
  1. Helping the poor; tending to the afflicted
- E. A husband needs a wife who has strong character - Prov. 31:25
  1. 1Peter 3:3-4
- F. A husband needs a wife who speaks words of wisdom and kindness
  1. Prov. 31:26; Eph. 4:29
- G. A husband needs a wife who diligently sees to her family's needs
  1. Prov. 31:27, 15, 21
  2. Thinks of the future and makes preparation; does not leave this solely to her husband
- H. A husband needs a wife who fears the Lord - Prov. 31:29-30
  1. They both understand that this quality is more important and praiseworthy than physical beauty
- I. A husband does not need a wife who is contentious and hateful
  1. Prov. 21:9, 19, 30:21-23
  2. These attitudes create conditions where the husband does not want to be around his wife and seeks to be elsewhere

### **Conclusion:**

“I have no way of knowing whether or not you married the wrong person, but I do know that many people have a lot of wrong ideas about marriage and what it takes to make that marriage happy and successful. I'll be the first to admit that it's possible that you did marry the wrong person. However, if you treat the wrong person like the right person, you could well end up having married the right person after all. On the other hand, if you marry the right person, and treat that person wrong, you certainly will have ended up marrying the wrong person. I also know that it is far more important to be the right kind of person than it is to marry the right person. In short, whether you married the right or wrong person is primarily up to you.” -- Zig Ziglar