

# Understanding My Husband

Ephesians 5:22, 33

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- Eph. 5:22 – “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord... 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”
- 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 role as leader in the marriage

# What Kind Of Leader Must He Be?

- Psalm 128:1 – “Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways. 2 When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. 3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table. 4 Behold, thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD. 5 The LORD bless you out of Zion, And may you see the good of Jerusalem All the days of your life. 6 Yes, may you see your children's children.”

# This Kind Of Leader Deserves Respect

- This is the primary quality you should be looking for in a husband - a spiritually minded leader
- All other concerns are secondary and do not justify withholding respect and affection for his role as leader: appearance, amount of money he makes, his personality, his mannerisms

# This Kind Of Leader Deserves Respect

- 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
- Women often change in their attitudes toward their husbands over time
- Dr. Raymond Force, Ocala, Florida, March 10, 2008

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- Eph. 5:22, 33 – “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord... 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”
- The commands to respect, support, and show affection to your husband is no less binding on you than the command for him to love you as Christ loves the church.
- The command to respect your husband is not conditional on whether or not your husband keeps his command to love you

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- 1Peter 3:1-7 - “Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel-- 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror. 7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”

# Understanding My Husband

- 1Peter 3:1-7
- Nothing in this passage is stated in the form of suggestions
- It is the best description one can find of the “helper comparable” of Genesis 2
  - Gen. 2:18 - “And Jehovah God said, It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make for him a helper, as his counterpart.”

# What Can Be Said About Working To Make The Marriage Work?

- A good marriage is the union of two good forgivers.
- A great marriage is not when the 'perfect couple' come together. It is when an imperfect couple learns to enjoy their differences.
- As for the secret to staying married: "My wife tells me that if I ever decide to leave, she is coming with me."
- Happy marriages begin when we marry the ones we love, and they blossom when we love the ones we marry.

# What Can Be Said About Working To Make The Marriage Work?

- 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.
- You don't marry one person; you marry three:
  - the person you think they are,
  - the person they really are,
  - and the person they are going to become as a result of being married to you.
- You must fight the temptation to make your working on the marriage conditional on his working on the marriage

# Understanding My Husband

- What kind of wife does God want you to be to complete the marriage, to fulfill as an Eve what is lacking in your Adam?
- 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.
- 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 and by design incapable of filling; you complete the two of you as mates

# A Husband Needs a Wife Who...

- ...is trustworthy
  - Prov. 31:10-12 - “Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. 11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. 12 She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.”
  - The husband can safely entrust her with his income and property
  - More importantly, he can trust her to be truthful with him

# A Husband Needs a Wife Who...

- ...has practical skills
  - Prov. 31:13-15, 21-22 - “She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands. 14 She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar. 15 She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants... 21 She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet. 22 She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple.”

# A Husband Needs a Wife Who...

- ...has practical skills
  - In his role as provider, he is limited in his ability to accomplish matters at home at the same time
  - 1Tim. 5:14 - “Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”
  - Titus 2:4-5 - “...admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.”

# A Husband Needs a Wife Who...

- ...is industrious
  - Prov. 31:16, 24 - “She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard... 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, And supplies sashes for the merchants.”
  - Helps with extra income or helps his income go further

# A Husband Needs a Wife Who...

- ...is compassionate
  - Prov. 31:20 - “She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.”
  - Helping the poor; tending to the ill

# A Husband Needs a Wife Who...

- ...has strong character
  - Prov. 31:25 - “Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come.”
  - 1Peter 3:3-4 - “Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel-- 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”

# A Husband Needs a Wife Who...

- ...speaks words of wisdom and kindness
  - Prov. 31:26 - “She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness.”
  - Eph. 4:29 - “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”

# A Husband Needs a Wife Who...

- ...diligently sees to her family's needs
  - Prov. 31:27, 15, 21 - “She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness... 15 She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household... 21 She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet.”
  - Thinks of the future and makes preparations; does not leave this solely to her husband

# A Husband Needs a Wife Who...

- ...fears the Lord
  - Prov. 31:29-30 - “Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all. 30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.”
  - They both understand that this quality is more important and desirable than physical beauty

# A Husband Needs a Wife Who...

- ...who is not contentious and hateful
  - Prov. 21:9, 19 - “Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman... 19 Better to dwell in the wilderness, Than with a contentious and angry woman.”
  - Prov. 30:21-23 - “For three things the earth is perturbed, Yes, for four it cannot bear up: 22 For a servant when he reigns, A fool when he is filled with food, 23 A hateful woman when she is married, And a maidservant who succeeds her mistress.”
- These attitudes create conditions where the husband does not want to be around his wife and seeks to be elsewhere

# Understanding My Spouse

- If you choose not to be this kind of mate because you believe you have unique circumstances that somehow give you a special exemption from God's commands for you and your responsibilities in the marriage, you are in as much error as if you had refused to obey the gospel because you think you have unique circumstances that exempt you from the command to be baptized.

# Understanding My Spouse

- God saw that Adam was incomplete without Eve; He made a wife for man to make one of the two so that they both would be whole.
- And so it is that both husband and wife must fulfill their role to the utmost for their mates to be complete and the marriage to be healthy

- “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.”