

“Wives, Respect Your Husbands” Ephesians 5:33

In Ephesians 5:33, husbands and wives are instructed to fulfill their biblical roles. This week, we will look at the wife's responsibility and high calling to love her husband by honoring and respecting his leadership.

Barna Survey of Christian Families Re: Age Children Become Believers...

- No Faith Commitment: 31%
- Committed Before Age 14: 59%
- New Teen Commitments: 5%
- Emerging Adult Commitments: 5%

Summary: “if a person does not accept Christ as Savior before the age of 14, the likelihood of ever doing so is slim.”

—The Barna Update: *Evangelism is Most Effective Among Kids*, October 2004

“Nevertheless, let each individual among you also love his wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.”

—Ephesians 5:33 (NASB)

Our marriages are to visibly demonstrate Christ's love relationship with His Bride, the Church.

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”

—Rev. 19:7-8

The Context: “Be Filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18)

The Prerequisite: “One Flesh Union” (Ephesians 5:31; Genesis 2:24)

“An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels.”

—Proverbs 31:10

Husbands: Unconditionally Love your Wives!

A love that demonstrates...

- Value (Prov. 31:10)
- Submissiveness to Others (Eph. 5:18-21)
- Servant Leadership (Eph. 5:23; Jn. 13:5-15)
- Sacrificial Giving (Eph. 5:25)

- Tenderness & Care (Eph. 5:28-30; 1 Pet. 3:7)
- Family Commitment (Eph. 6:4)
- Protection & Support (1 Tim. 5:8)
- Openness and Honesty (Ps. 32:2)
- Purity and Fidelity = TRUST (Heb. 13:4)

What is a Husband's #1 Need? RESPECT!

Wives: Unconditionally Love your Husbands!

A respect that demonstrates...

- Honor and Value for His Leadership

"A man almost unconsciously marries someone who will complete his life vision, and with her support help him fulfill his identity. If she doesn't do this, their marriage will suffer tremendously. He will pull away and look for someone else to cheer him on in life."

—Daniel Livingston, *Seasons of a Man's Life*.

Survey: 400 men were given a choice between going through two negative experiences...

1. To be left alone and unloved in the world- **74%**
2. To feel inadequate and disrespected by everyone- **26%**

Quoted in Shaunti Feldhahn's book, *For Women Only; What You Need to Know About the Inner Lives of Men*. Survey performed by Decision Analysts, Inc.

A respect that demonstrates...

- Submissiveness (Eph. 5:22)

"Wives, understand and support your husbands in ways that show your support for Christ."

—The Message

Submission is not...

- Inferiority
- Lost of identity
- Being denied input in decision-making
- Unique to wives
- Something husbands are to lord over wives

Submission is...

Greek: *hupotasso*

hupo- "under"

tasso- "order, fix, appoint"

Context - to come under person worthy of respect (because he is your husband)

Other NT Usages

- to one another (1 Cor. 16:16; 1 Peter 5b)
- to parents (Eph. 6:1-4; Luke 2:51)
- to masters/employers (Eph. 6:5-9; Titus 2:9)
- to secular authorities (Rom. 13:1, 5; Titus 3:1)
- to God (1 Cor. 15:28b; Hebrews 12:9)

A respect that demonstrates...

- Support & Encouragement (Prov. 12:4; 25:24)

Encourage Your Man!

"An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who shames him is like rottenness in his bones."

—Proverbs 12:4

"It is better to live in a corner of the roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman."

—Proverbs 25:24

A respect that demonstrates...

- Love (Titus 2:4)

A respect that demonstrates...

- Physical Intimacy (Song of Solomon)

"When a man takes a new wife, he shall not go out with the army nor be charged with any duty; he shall be free at home one year and shall give happiness to his wife whom he has taken."

—Deuteronomy 24:5

A respect that demonstrates...

- Recreational Companion (Gen. 2:18)

"And this provides a good picture of how each husband is to treat his wife, loving himself in loving her, and how each wife is to honor her husband."

—Ephesians 5:33 (The Message)

Real Life Applications For both Husbands & Wives

Move toward your spouse!

- Even if you don't feel like it
- Sometimes as an act of obedience
- Gets easier (usually) more you do it...with time

- God will bless your efforts

Go out on a date...

- Husband - ask wife what communicates LOVE to her.
- Wife - ask husband what communicates RESPECT to him.

Give thanks for your spouse!

Thanksgiving

...thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.

—1 Thessalonians 5:18 (Message)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

—Philippians 4:6

Count Your Blessing

By Johnston Oatman Jr. (1856-1922)

Count your blessings,
Name them one by one:
Count your many blessings,
See what God hath done.