

How to Honor and Respect Your Husband

Perhaps more than at any other time in history, women today need a clear understanding of how they should relate to their husbands. In fact, the significant social changes brought about by the women's liberation movement over the last few decades have led to such confusion, with the result that the family unit is uncertain apart. There is much misunderstanding in our world today about the roles of husband and wife within a marriage, it's no surprise that the world rejects God's design. Many marriages begin well and end poorly because women are not properly trained in how to respect and honor their husbands.

It's important for us to look clearly at what the Bible says on this subject. Today's world views have misleading the biblical truth that woman was created for man. While all of us are called to be helpers to others, the Bible places a special emphasis on this responsibility for wives. Genesis tells us that God realized it wasn't good for man to be alone, and that He decided to make a "helper suitable for him" (Gen. 2:18). As Christian wives, when get back to the fundamentals they can be the best wife that God has made us to be. God's design of marriage is perfect, we can strive to follow our husband's leadership, care for him, respect and honor him in all manner of our conversation and live our life to help meet his needs. God has specific roles for the husband and the wife and when we stay within those roles we have happy marriages and good family lives. Love and Respect is something that should be mutual between all members of the family. The marriage relationship on earth is a living representation of Christ's relationship to the church, His bride.(Ephesians 5:21-33) When you honor and respect, live for your own husband you glorify Christ and teach the world the true role of the Christian wife. God knows best and when we agree with Him our marriages will be blessed. It is a daily choice, are you choosing to follow God's way?

Men and women are equal in a marriage, both are created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). Men and women are also equally sinners in need of grace and salvation. Redeemed men and women are equally forgiven, equally indwelt by the Holy Spirit, equally invited before the throne of grace, and equally heirs of God (Galatians 3:28). But God created us with different sets of needs. He designed marriage to allow a husband and wife to meet each others' needs. The number-one need for men is honor and respect. Men cannot meet that need themselves. In Ephesians 5:33, "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 addition to his command toward men, Bible says a wife should honor and respect her husband.

In Genesis 2:18 the Lord says, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." After God creates the woman from Adam's rib were near his heart to be loved (Genesis 2:21-22), Adam proclaims, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man" (Genesis 2:23). We then read the first description of marriage: "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). The woman was "suitable" for the man, she was created from him, and she becomes "one flesh" with him in marriage. The immediate context of the commands to the husband and wife in Ephesians 5:19-33 involves the filling of the Spirit. Christians are to be worshipful (5:19), thankful (5:20), and submissive (5:21). Paul then follows this line of thought on Spirit-filled living and applies it to wives in verses 22-24. A wife should submit to her husband, because that is how God designed the marital relationship to function.

The context of (1 Peter 3:5-6) is the Apostle Peter's instructions concerning living as godly "the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, honoring him as her lord. And you are her daughters if you do what is right and do not fear anything that is frightening" Scripture tells us that the woman was deceived (1 Timothy 2:14), the implication of the fall is that by virtue of her being deceived by Satan, she is subject to her husband and that she is a weaker vessel. The husband is to take his place as the head according to God's order. We understand the dynamics at work which are totally at odds with human viewpoints and worldly wisdom. The word weakness can cause great offense when there should be none at all. Women are weaker and need to be treated with understanding and respect. It is a basis for a husband to treat his wife with understanding, tenderness, and patience. A husband shows his love for his wife by putting her first. A woman who resists this loving care by her husband is robbing herself of the joy of being the weaker vessel. The roles are divinely designed to be complementary. The Scriptures are clear about the unique responsibilities God assigns to a wife. A woman can be a godly wife without being perfect, but as a wife grows more intimate in her relationship with Christ, she will grow increasingly godly in her marriage. Godliness goes in complete opposition of what secular society says a woman should desire to. However, as women of God our first concern must always be what pleases God.

Wife have to submit to her husband

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Submission is an important issue in relation to marriage. Here is the biblical command: "Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything"(Ephesians 5:22–24) Even before sin entered the world, there was still the principle of the headship of the husband (1 Timothy 2:13). Adam was created first, and Eve was created to be a "helper" for Adam (Genesis 2:18–20). God has established several types of authority in the world: governments to enforce justice in society and provide protection; pastors to lead and feed the sheep of God; husbands to love and nurture their wives; and fathers to admonish their children. In each case, submission is required: citizen to government, flock to shepherd, wife to husband, child to father. The relating to husband and wife has to do with willing submission, which is a spiritual submission "as unto the Lord" This kind of submission is about in the context of a mutual respectful relationship, the husband should love his wife unto death and the wife should submit to her husband (as unto the Lord).

The Greek word translated "submit," *hupotasso*, is the continuing form of the verb. This means that submitting to God, the government, a pastor, or a husband is not a one-time act. It is a continual attitude, which becomes a pattern of behavior. First, we are responsible to submit to God, which is the only way we can truly obey Him (James 1:21; 4:7). And each Christian should live in humble, ready submission to others (Ephesians 5:21) In regards to submission within the family unit, 1 Corinthians 11:2–3, says that the husband is to submit to Christ (as Christ did the will of the Father) and the wife is to submit to her husband.

To counter the world's misinformation concerning a wife's submission to her husband, we should carefully note the following in Ephesians 5:22–24: 1) A wife is to submit to one man (her husband), not to every man. The rule to submit does *not* extend to a woman's place in society at large. 2) A wife is to willingly submit to her husband in personal obedience to the Lord Jesus. She submits to her husband because she loves Jesus. 3) The example of a wife's submission is that of the church to Christ. 4) There is nothing said of the wife's abilities, talents, or worth; the fact that she submits to her own husband does not imply that she is inferior or less worthy in any way. Also notice that there are no qualifiers to the command to submit, except "in everything." It may be a fact that she is better qualified than he to lead in many ways, but she chooses to follow the Lord's instruction by submitting to her husband's leadership.

Submission should be a natural response to loving leadership. When a husband loves his wife as Christ loves the church (Ephesians 5:25—33), then submission is a natural response from a wife to her husband. But, regardless of the husband's love or lack thereof, the wife is commanded to submit "as to the Lord" This means that her obedience to God—her acceptance of His plan—will result in her submission to her husband. The "as to the Lord" comparison also reminds the wife that there is a higher authority to whom she is responsible. Thus, she is under no obligation to disobey God's law in the name of "submission" to her husband. She submits in things that are right and lawful and God-honoring. To try to use the principle of "submission" to justify abuse is to twist Scripture and promote evil.

What does a submissive wife look like? A wife to be submissive to her husband as Christ is submissive to the Father means she willingly *allows* her husband to lead. Jesus went willingly, although not without distress (Matthew 26:39). Christ knew the Father's way was best. A godly wife may find the path of submissiveness painful at times, but following God will always result in spiritual rewards that last for all eternity (1 Timothy 4:7–8) The Bible equates submissiveness to one's husband to submissiveness to God (Ephesians 5:22). In other words, if a wife cannot submit to her husband, it may be a reflection of her struggle to be submissive to Christ. Submission does not imply weakness; Submission requires strength, dignity, and devotion, as we learn from the Proverbs 31 woman. "Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything." In a marriage, submission is a position of giving honor and respect to the husband (see Ephesians 5:33) and completing what he is lacking in. It is God's wise plan for how the family should function. Finally, a godly wife should be submissive to her husband

In Peter's instructing Christian women to "be subject" to their husbands (1 Peter 3:1) He says if these husbands are not Christ's disciples, they may be won to Christ without a word simply by the respectful and pure conduct of their wives.(1 Peter 3:1-2) The word for "be subject" implies putting oneself in obedience to another, to be in submission to him. Peter's evidence of this, of Sarah's obedience to her husband Abraham, is the fruit of her submission to him, calling her husband lord is the fruit.

To be a godly wife, we must first consider what the word *godly* means. In 1 Timothy 2:2, Paul uses the word in conjunction with being “peaceful,” “quiet,” and “dignified.” The Bible says the Spirit, who is in every believer, produces visible and invisible acts of godliness, “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness” (Galatians 5:22). The decisive definition of *godliness* would be “Christlikeness” Godliness involves a genuine striving to imitate Christ, to be like Him in thought and action as the apostle Paul strived to be (1 Cor 11:1) These characteristics of a godly disposition apply to every believer. The Bible gives more specific qualifications as to what a godly woman particularly, a godly wife—looks like.

In the book of Proverbs, there is a beautiful word picture painted of a godly wife. A godly wife is one who has the complete trust of her husband. He doesn’t have to worry she will be tempted by the wiles of another man, wearing expensive things or spend all day watching TV. He knows she is dignified, wise, and devoted (Proverbs 31:11, 12, 25, 26). He is confident of her support and sincere love because she is not malicious or critical. Her husband has a good reputation in the community, and his wife never speaks ill of him, never gossips about him. Rather, she is always lifting him up and giving him praise. She maintains the household thoroughly and is well respected herself (Proverbs 30:12, 21, 23) A godly wife spends less time in front of the mirror than in sharing her goods with the poor and needy because she is selfless and benevolent (Proverbs 31:20, 30) She keeps her body and spirit strong and in good health. Although she works hard and keeps long hours, she is not worn-down; she cares about beautiful things to enhance herself and her family.

Here are practical ways women can honor their husbands:

Cover his faults and focus on his strengths. The devil wants us to be overly attentive to our Husband’s worst qualities and his faults. On any given day, the good elements of our lives and relationships outweigh the bad ones. But God wants us to think about the best qualities in our spouse. Wives, are you more likely to complain about your husband’s failings or praise him for one of his strengths? If you want to have a peaceful, happy marriage, learn the art of the compliment/praise. Compliments are like magnets, and the more you compliment your husband the more he will be attracted to you. Begin to notice when he does it right and verbally encourage him by complimenting him at least once a day. If you are having a hard time thinking of anything to admire, consider these categories: physical traits, mental skills, financial strengths, spiritual growth, or healthy relationships with others (children, parents, or friends). Marriage succeeds in an atmosphere of praise. It’s a critical discipline to create within your home.

How does a wife show her husband unconditional respect? 1. Look for opportunities to show your husband honor and build him up. 2. Accept that you married an imperfect man. If your husband makes a bad decision, avoid saying "I told you so." Trust that God will somehow make even his bad decision work out in the long run. Pray for your husband and rely on God to change his heart and mind. 3. Focus on what your husband does well. Ask God to give you an attitude that looks for the best in your husband and responds in ways that build him up. As you begin each day, ask yourself: Is my heart in the right place? Am I following the humble example 4. Speak well of your husband. Don't belittle/putdown him to your girlfriends or make him feel unnecessary or incapable. Remember to avoid getting leadership and advice from other males in your life such as your pastor, friend or even your brother. Take a look at what the Bible says about your husband’s role as leader and head of the wife: 5. Encourage your husband when he gives spiritual direction to your family. Affirm him for his efforts, no matter how small. (motivate husband to get right with God and become the spiritual leader of family?) 6. Think before you speak. Sometimes life's decisions are really hard, especially when men and women think and reason so differently. Proverbs 21:23 offers good advice: "Watch your words and hold your tongue; you'll save yourself a lot of grief." 7. Consider the three T's: Text (what you will say), Time (when you will say it) and Tone (how you will express your words). Before discussing something difficult with your husband, ask yourself three questions: "Is it true? Is it right? Does it build up?" consider the best time to talk with your husband, and to ask God to give you the right tone when communicating. 8. Tell your children the positive aspects of their dad's character, both as a husband and a father. Regularly doing this in front of your spouse not only shows him respect, but also helps the kids develop a loving, respectful attitude toward Dad and marriage. Instead of correcting him in front of the kids, waits and talks with him later And the kids have learned to see His word as authority in our home. 9. Remember that your touch tells your husband that he is worthy of your time and concern for his well-being. "When your husband is tense or stressed," give a massaging touch. Express how much appreciate his work. Respect expresses a wife's trust. Respect provides confidence and makes him want to love her even more. We give glory to God as we care for our own husband!