

Respect for Your Husband

The issue I want to talk with you today is the issue of respect for your husband. I want you to understand that I'm not saying to ignore all of his shortcomings and do whatever he tells you to do, regardless if it's good for the family or not.

That's not a scriptural view of marriage. But the Bible does command wives to respect their husbands, just like it commands husbands to love their wives.

Modern culture, and especially TV programs, doesn't model respect of a wife toward her husband. Just watch any current sitcom for five minutes and tell me I'm wrong!

- Ladies, as we go through this today, I want you to hear me loud and clear: Your respect for your husband will affect the strength and success of your marriage!! And to the degree you respect your husband; you can expect a weakening and walking toward failure of your marriage.
- Ladies, you play such a key role in our success as men!!!And this whole deal of respect is a big part of that.
- So I hope you'll catch what I believe God wants to tell you today from a very short passage of scripture: Ephesians 5:33 "However, each one of you must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."
- "Respect" can be loaded term, so I want to start by defining it. Respect is both a noun and a verb. It means: High or special regard or to consider worthy of high regard.
- Ladies I know that all husbands are jerks sometimes, and some husbands are jerks all of the time. The only answer to that is for God to do a miracle in his life, which we will get into a little later.

- So, how can a wife show respect for her husband? I'll give you three ways that can make a large difference in him and your marriage.
1. Allow To Lead: I just lost some of you!! The bottom line is, God is holding him responsible for the direction, right or wrong of his family.
 - That, ladies, is a huge burden for the man that understands that.
 - You can allow him to lead by understanding your unique role as a helpmate. Only a woman created in the image of God can fulfill the role of completing the man!!
 - When you come alongside him- in any number of ways, including this thing about respect, you are fulfilling a God given role that only you can fulfill.
Now that's powerful stuff!!!!
 - Please don't ever think of "helpmate" as anything other than an n honored and honorable task that Gad has uniquely equipped and gifted you to do!
 - Trust God for the results: as your husband starts to make decisions and looks to take your family in a direction. Whether it is financially, or spiritually, or whatever and you allow him to do that, you can trust God to take care of you, even when the decision is wrong.
 - Here is the second way that you can show your husband respect:
Encourage him privately and publicly.
 - Ladies you have NO idea how powerful your words are to your husbands!!! He literally craves to hear honest, sincere praise and appreciation from you.

- He may get compliments all day long and one negative word from you will blow it all away. On the other hand, a complimentary word from you fills his sails and lifts his spirits, and gives him the motivation to go on.
- Watch how you talk to him, especially in front of the kids. Don't talk to him like a child, talk to him like he is the man in your life!! Your kids need to see you talking well of your husband.

3. Lastly, the third way you can show respect for your husband is to PRAY for him.

- If there is anyone in your life that needs pray it's your husband. Here are something's that you can pray for your husband: His spiritual health. Pray that he will follow Jesus in every area of his life!!
- Maybe he doesn't know Jesus yet. I mentioned earlier that some husbands are engrained jerks and that it would take a miracle for him to change. The good news is that Jesus is in the business of transforming people!!! Including husbands that are not living up to the standards that God has for them.
 - Pray that your husband takes the initiative in spiritual leadership.
- Your respect for your husband does this: Give him a desire to work harder to provide and protect. Boosts his confidence in leading the family in the right direction.
- Any husband with a shred of common decency will give his right arm for a wife that loves and appreciates his efforts for him.

- Ladies you have the power to be used by God to mold us be your man as we become God's man!! Ladies, you have the chance to show people around you that marriage is something that you cherish because you cherish your husband.
- We need it, and when you choose to respect you husband in spite of his short comings, you honor your husband and you honor God. And God has a way of honoring those who honor!!!!