

## **Built to Last!**

### ***How to Really Love Your Husband***

*Pastor Brad Bigney / Grace Fellowship Church / November 19, 2000*

Ladies, according to the Bible you've got **3 primary RESPONSIBILITIES** in your relationship with your husband:

1. Love him
2. Respect him (reverence)
3. Submit to him

#### **I. Love Your Husband**

**Heb. 12:15** "looking diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled."

**There are some common signs of bitterness.** Ask yourself if you are manifesting any of these signs:

##### **1. Do you gossip about your husband and slander him to others?**

Are you one of those wives who has either nothing or very little that is good to say about your husband?

##### **2. Are you ungrateful and complaining?**

Do you murmur to yourself and to others about him?

##### **3. Are you quick to judge his motives?**

Is everything he does suspect in your eyes? Even if he does something nice, do you think his motive must be off. For example, "He only did that to look good to his parents." "I know it seemed like a nice gesture, but he didn't really mean it."

##### **4. Have you become self-centered?**

Do you spend excessive amounts of time brooding and thinking about yourself...your plot in life? Are you self-absorbed? Is your focus on yourself and the way you've been hurt?

##### **5. Are you spiteful and vengeful?**

Do you look for ways to avoid your husband? Do you leave when he is home, pout, or give him the cold shoulder? Are you trying to pay him back for what he has done to you?

***"Never pay back evil for evil to anyone... Never take your own personal revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God..." Romans 12:17, 19***

## 6. Do you brood and stew over what your husband has done?

The wife broods about what her husband has done. She thinks about it often and plays it over and over in her mind.

**"Love does not take into account a wrong suffered." I Corinthians 13:5**

## 7. Do you have a critical, judgmental attitude?

Is it difficult for you to take your focus off what your husband has done wrong and focus instead on what you've done wrong?

**"Before you can see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye, first take the beam out of your own eye." Matthew 7:1-5**

## II. God Tells You to Respect Your Husband

"Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see to it that she respects her husband" **Eph. 5:33**

You are to respect your husband whether or not you believe he is deserving of your respect. You respect the position as unto God. Husbands have been given authority over their families by God.

**I Cor. 11:3** "Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ."

**Don't behave in a disrespectful manner towards your husbands:** Don't make fun of him. Don't cut him down. Don't use sarcasm. Don't be impatient and irritated. And be especially cautious of your WORDS, TONE OF VOICE, and COUNTENANCE when you speak to your husband.

Remember... **Prov. 15:28** "the heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things"

### Respecting Your Husband... A Self-Assessment Quiz

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Do you speak to your husband in a condescending, "put down" manner?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Do you treat your husband in private as respectfully as you do your pastor, your neighbor, or your friends in public?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Does your countenance show your disrespect by angry looks, disgust, crossed arms, etc.?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Do you talk for your husband or interrupt him?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Do you try to intimidate or bully your husband by making threats, verbally attacking him, crying, or in some other way manipulating him to have your way?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Do you bring up his shortcomings to others?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Do you inappropriately contradict him in front of others?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Do you compare him unfavorably with other men?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Do you listen carefully to your husband's opinion, trying to understand him?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Do you respect his position in the home so much that he can depend on you to do as he asks even when he is not home?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Would your husband say that you have a meek and quiet spirit? If you do, it will be apparent in how you treat him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Are you obeying God by being respectful to your husband?

(Taken from Martha Peace, "Excellent Wife - A Biblical Perspective", Focus Publishing, 1995)

### III. God Tells You to Submit to Your Husband

**Eph. 5:22** "Wives submit to your own husbands as to the Lord"

**Eph. 5:24** "Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything."

**I Peter 3:1** "Likewise you wives, 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."

**The concept of submission has been so misunderstood and in many cases abused** by husbands today that if nothing else I'd like to at least quickly make some clarifications about what the Bible means when it asks a woman to submit to her husband.

So let's quickly debunk some of the submission myths that are flying around the church and our culture today.

#### **Submission is NOT...**

##### 1. Inequality

**Phil. 2:5-9** "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped..."

2. Recognizing the husband as infallible  
**Romans 13:1** "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority (husbands included) except that which God has established."  
*parenthetical thought added*
3. Immobility  
 You're not a slave, a doormat, or completely passive  
**Eph. 4:16** Each part does it's work
4. Inarticulate  
 Submission does not mean silence or failure to speak. You must still speak and seek to persuade in a gentle and submissive manner.  
**Eph. 4:15** "Speak the truth in love..."
5. Intellectual Stagnation  
**I Cor. 4:2** As a child of God, you are a steward that must be faithful with the gifts that God has given to you as an individual and a woman.

### **Biblical Submission IS...**

1. The divine plan for function and order in the home- Someone must be responsible before God for leading the home. God has assigned that task to the man.
2. A way of life for all believers  
**Eph. 5:21** "Submit to one another..."  
**I Peter 2:15** Submit to all authorities
3. A protection for the wife - true freedom is NOT getting out from under authority
4. An attitude  
**I Peter 2:22 - 3:1** "Entrust yourself to Him (God) who judges justly... wives, in the same way be submissive to your own husbands... that they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives."
5. An act of the will - NOT a feeling
6. A proof of one's love for God  
**John 14:31** "I love the Father and I do what He says..."
7. A picture of how the church of Jesus Christ is to obey Him  
**Eph. 5:24** "Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their own husbands in everything."

# Common Signs of Bitterness: Self-Assessment Quiz

Ask yourself if you are manifesting any of these signs

Rate yourself on a scale of 1-5 (one being the lowest score and 5 being the best)

Make note of the ones you scored the lowest on and write down specific ways you can improve in that area. Then come together with your husband and ask him to rate you in each area. (The scores may not be the same!) Make changing a matter of specific prayer and ask your husband to hold you accountable.

## 1. Gossip and Slander

In the process of complaining, the wife gossips about her husband and slanders him, thereby defiling others. She has either nothing or very little that is good to say about him.

**"See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled..." Hebrews 12:15-17**

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## 2. Ungrateful and Complaining

The wife is not grateful to her husband. She murmurs to herself and complains to others about him.

**"Do all things without grumbling or disputing..." Philippians 2:14**

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## 3. Judges Motives

Whatever he does is suspect in her eyes. Even if he does something nice, she thinks his motive must be off. For example, "He only did that to look good to his parents." "I know it seemed like a nice gesture, but he didn't really mean it."

**"Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God." I Cor. 4:5**

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## 4. Self-Centered

The wife spends a lot of time thinking about herself. She is very self-absorbed. Her focus is fixed on herself and the hurts done against her.

**"... do not merely look out for your own personal interests..." Philippians 2:4**

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## 5. Excessive Sorrow and Loss of Joy

Grief and hurt have crowded out any joy, peace, or love that she used to have. It has, in fact, filled up her heart. It may, at times, overwhelm her. Lately, the wife has little or no delight in her relationship with the Lord. Because of her sin, instead of God's peace and joy, she is experiencing intense emotional pain and misery.

**"... sorrow has filled your heart." John 16:6**

**"I shall delight in Thy commandments which I love." Psalm 119:47**

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## 6. Vengeful

The wife looks for ways to avoid her husband. Perhaps she leaves when he is home, pouts, or gives him the cold shoulder. She is paying him back for what he has done to her.

**"Never pay back evil for evil to anyone... Never take your own personal revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God..." Romans 12:17, 19**

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## 7. Brooding

The wife broods about what her husband has done. She thinks about it often and plays it over and over in her mind.

**"Love does not take into account a wrong suffered." I Corinthians 13:5**

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## 8. A Critical, Judgmental Attitude

It is difficult for the wife to take her focus off what her husband has done wrong and focus instead on what she is doing wrong.

**"Before you can see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye, first take the beam out of your own eye." Matthew 7:1-5**

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# Respecting Your Husband: Self-Assessment Quiz

Ask yourself if you are manifesting any of these signs

Rate yourself on a scale of 1-5 (one being the lowest score and 5 being the best)

Make note of the ones you scored the lowest on and write down specific ways you can improve in that area. Then come together with your husband and ask him to rate you in each area. (The scores may not be the same!) Make changing a matter of specific prayer and ask your husband to hold you accountable.

1. Do you speak to your husband in a condescending, "put down" manner?

For example:

"What the matter with you?"

"Anybody could have done better than you did."

"My Dad would have never done that."

"Can't you do anything right?"

"I should have known better than to depend on you."

"Don't be stupid."

"What you just said is ridiculous."

"You're too slow, I'll do it myself."

***"It is better to live in a desert land, than with a contentious and vexing woman."***

***Prov. 21:19***

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2. Do you treat your husband in private as respectfully as you do your pastor, your neighbor, or your friends in public?

***"Honor all men, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king." I Peter 2:17***

(If "honor all men" is how you are to treat others, how much more should you show respect to your husband?)

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3. Does your countenance show your disrespect by angry looks, disgust, crossed arms, etc.?

***"Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.'" Genesis 4:6-7***

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4. Do you talk for your husband or interrupt him?

**"Love is patient... does not act unbecomingly, it does not seek its own (way)..." I Cor. 13:4-5**

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1 2 3 4 5

5. Do you try to intimidate or bully your husband by making threats, verbally attacking him, crying, or in some other way manipulating him to have your way?

**"The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands." Prov. 14:1**

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6. Do you bring up his shortcomings to others?

**"Her husband is known in the gates..." Prov. 31:23**

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7. Do you inappropriately contradict him in front of others?

**"She does him good and not evil all the days of her life." Prov. 31:12**

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8. Do you compare him unfavorably with other men?

**"...for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am." Philippians 4:11**

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1 2 3 4 5

9. Do you listen carefully to your husband's opinion, trying to understand him?

**"Let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak..." James 1:19**

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1 2 3 4 5



10. Do you respect his position in the home so much that he can depend on you to do as he asks even when he is not home?

**"The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain." Prov. 31:11**

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11. Would your husband say that you have a meek and quiet spirit? If you do, it will be apparent in how you treat him.

**"And let not your adornment be merely external braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God." I Peter 3:3-4**

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12. Are you obeying God by being respectful to your husband?

**"...let the wife see to it that she respect her husband." Ephesians 5:33**

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If you low on any of the above questions, then you are not as respectful to your husband as God would have you be. Confess it to God as sin, realizing He will be **"faithful and just to forgive..." (I John 1:9)** and ask your husband's forgiveness. Be clear about what you have done wrong.

Respecting authority is practically a lost art, but as a Christian wife, with God's enabling grace, you can cultivate a respectful attitude. Circumstances come and go, husbands succeed and fail, some merit respect and others do not, but whatever your situation, you can by an act of your will show biblical respect to your husband and show love to God in the process.

(Taken from Martha Peace, "Excellent Wife - A Biblical Perspective", Focus Publishing, 1995)