

## Loving and Respecting Your Spouse

By Marie Jon'

Forty years of feminist philosophy has rendered it's verdict for just about everything the male does, and the judgment is severe. If we listen to the feminists, man is evil, stupid, and unjustly tyrannical. The modern-day feminist movement which began in the early 60's has played a decisive role in decentralizing the American family. However, the main cause of family problems today is, possibly, our own self-centeredness.

Mothers and fathers need to be shining examples if this is to be corrected. They must nurture and educate their children on how to love their future spouses and children. Parents need to teach their children to be self-controlled and honest, to be helpful at home, and thoughtful of others.

The word of God is a great resource for learning these important values and skills.

To women, God has given the power of affection. Men spend their lives yearning for a woman's acceptance and love. Man can oft time be putty in the hands of the woman he loves.

Give him honest and direct communication, respect, appreciation--like a well-cooked meal once in a while--and sensuous and unadulterated loving, and he will do just about anything you wish, foolish or not.

Regarding women, God made them a bit more talkative than man, which can at times be frustrating. Instead of expecting her husband to be "a girlfriend," a wise wife would choose a topic that suits both she and her husband.

And Ladies, men make terrible mind readers, so be direct. Subtle hints often don't work. This doesn't mean that man is insensitive, uncaring, or oblivious. It just means that he may not know, and needs to be told.

Tell your man whether you want advice, or if you're just letting off steam. God made man to want to be "our rescuer," so understand that you can frustrate him if he can't fix what's bothering you, especially if all you want is someone to listen.

Take whatever he says at face value. Women tend to overanalyze men. They are not that complicated. Essentially, men need respect and love.

God gave us the blueprint for a happy marriage. He commands husbands and wives in the Book of Ephesians: "However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."

Women need love just as they need air to breathe. This same verse commands a wife to respect her husband. Why? Because he needs respect as much as women need love. Treat each other with the dignity you deserve and want, for it is what God wants for us all.

Respect means not giving way to a display of one's anger, especially before the children. No emotional outburst is worth damaging a husband's reputation before your little ones.

Men long for their wives attention, affection, and affirmation. Respect involves paying attention to what they do. Respect means allowing the other person to be different than you.

Both men and women want to be acknowledged and appreciated for the things they do. Showing respect is to keep the home you made together clean and well-kept. It's a reflection of your love. Try to keep up with each other's wisdom. Grow in the word of God together, as well as intellectually.

Women often make their husbands feel like children by constantly reminding them to get things done. Men want to be admired. They want to be acknowledged for being the breadwinner. One of their greatest pleasures are when they can feel like a hero for taking care of their families.

Men and women have a different language of love. Every man and woman wants to be appreciated for whom they are and what they do. Some women keep an "Appreciation Journal" to help remind themselves of the things their mates do that they appreciate. Tell your spouse every day that you love and appreciate him/her.

Thank each other for being faithful. Thank God for the love you share with each other. Give thanks for your children. Love your spouse with kindness and respect, and receive all the blessings that come with it.

When love, respect and appreciation are openly expressed, a happy home is its own rewards. The American family needs to return to Godly principals.

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