

FAMILY: God's Way

What Your Husband Really Needs

Ephesians 5:21-22

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

NKJV - *"..submitting to one another in the fear of God. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord."*

NVI - *"Sométanse unos a otros, por reverencia a Cristo. Esposas, sométanse a sus propios esposos como al Señor."*

AMP - *"Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). Wives, be subject to your husbands [subordinate and adapt yourselves to them], as is right and fitting and your proper duty in the Lord."*

- **Last week, we learned that SUBMISSION & RESPECT ARE CENTRAL in all family relationships.** Remember, to **"submit"** simply means to recognize that someone has legitimate authority, and you give them the proper **RESPECT** that comes with it. It means you recognize that there is a God-given order of authority, and that you are part of a unit, a team. To submit means that you choose to bring yourself under the authority of your God-given Team Leader, by giving **HONOR & RESPECT**.
- **Every person in life and family relationships has a role of submission - EVEN JESUS CHRIST, as a part of the "Divine Family"!**
 - 1 Cor 11:3** - *"I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."*
 - Jn 6:38** - *"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."*
 - Mt 26:39** - *"If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."*
- **We saw that in the first family, the Adam's Family, the principle of SUBMISSION & RESPECT was in practice, from the very beginning.** In a family setting, "mutual submission" is where we **"choose to COOPERATE with and ADAPT ourselves to the needs of those around us, out of LOVE."** This is what it means to **"..submit yourselves one to**

another."

- **1 Cor 7:3-4** - *"Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does"*
- **If a wife shows her husband *RESPECT* and *HONORS* him**, he will gladly and faithfully love her, and sacrificially serve her over the "Marathon of Marriage". The fact that husbands value this thing called RESPECT more than love is extremely difficult for many women to grasp. God has made women with a tremendous need to *be loved*, and a great desire to give love. Therefore, most wives see all of life through "red lenses" that are focused on love. Most wives don't quite understand why their husbands don't operate the same way as they do.
- **But ladies, ask yourself this question:** "Just because a husband values *RESPECT* and *HONOR* more than love, does that mean that he doesn't value love at all? Does it mean that a husband has no need for love in his life, or no desire to give love to others?" **OF COURSE NOT!!** Your husband values your love more than words can describe! Your love is one of the most precious things to him in life! He just happens to spell "love" differently than you do - he spells it: ***R-E-S-P-E-C-T!!***
- **Nonetheless, for many women today, the question is asked:** *"Why is this the only command given to the wife towards her husband? Why does the Lord state so plainly and so bluntly, that it is vitally important for a wife to give *RESPECT* or *SUBMISSION* or *HONOR* to her husband?"* The answer is actually quite simple: Because God created Men with a genuine ***NEED*** for ***RESPECT!!***
- Ladies, I am NOT saying that he has EARNED your respect (because maybe he hasn't); I'm not saying that he even DESERVES your respect necessarily (because maybe he doesn't); and I'm not saying it's EASY for you to give him respect (because it might not be) - I'm simply saying that your husband NEEDS, LONGS FOR, and even CRAVES your RESPECT, because that is how God has designed men to be!!
 - *Every person has certain vital needs...Sex..Food..Water..Air...RESPECT!!*
 - *Every woman has a tremendous need for LOVE...without it they will "wither up" and die emotionally and relationally!! But that is how badly your husband ***NEEDS RESPECT!!*** Scuba Diver and his air tank...*
 - *But ***HOW*** can a wife do this practically?!?*

- **You see, every man believes deep down, that if his wife *TRULY* respects him in her heart**, if she *GENUINELY* honors him in her mind, then she *will* communicate that respect in one form or another. This doesn't mean that she needs to compose songs of admiration, and sing them to him at sunrise and sunset. But at *some time*, and in *some simple way*, the message of her *RESPECT* for him *will come through*, if it's truly in her heart! That's how a man thinks! (*Mt 12:34*)

Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, a widely recognized Christians counselor and author on the topic of marriage, has designed an acronym help wives understand how to practically provide what their husband desperately needs - *RESPECT*. To the women, Dr. Emerson uses the acronym of *C-H-A-I-R-S* to help them truly satisfy their spouses:

C onquest: *Express appreciation for his **hard work & achievements**.*

- **A man has a natural, innate, God-given desire to go out and conquer** the challenges of his world - to work and achieve as much as he can! Many men find their sense of identity in *WHAT THEY DO*, and use this as the measurement of their manhood. Though men need to find their true Identity in the Person of Christ, many aren't there yet, and so continue to give great weight to their accomplishments and position in their profession.
- **As a wife, if you can begin to understand how important your husband's work is to him**, you will take a giant step toward communicating respect and honor, two things that he values greatly, and which express your love to him.
- **Wives, your husband will know you appreciate his hard work & achievements...**
 - *When you regularly thank him after his hard day's work the family.*
 - *When you speak about his sacrifices to your kids in a glowing way.*
 - *When you take pride in his accomplishments when speaking to others.*

H eroic: *Express appreciation for his **protection & provision**.*

- **The desire to provide and protect his wife, is something that God put deep within the the soul of every man.** A man naturally wants to be an umbrella over his wife to protect and provide for her. It is a sacred responsibility that most men naturally perceive, and try their best to fulfill.
- **Many men admit, they are very sensitive to put-downs in this area** of protecting and providing for their families. If a woman criticizes her husbands ability to provide for the family, or his effort to protect them, he will feel extremely disrespected every time.

- **Wives, your husband will know you appreciate his protection & provision...**
 - *When you praise his commitment to provide for your needs.*
 - *When you empathize with him, when he has his male mind-set about his position, rank, or status at his work.*
 - *When you never put down or insult his job, or the level of income he makes for the family.*
 - *When you make him feel like your "Knight in Shining Armor" that you admire!*

A uthority: *Express appreciation for his **service & leadership.***

- **A man has a natural, innate, God-given desire to lead his family and direct them as they move into the future.** This is God's design, that the husband would be the captain of the Family Ship, and lead the way for them to discover all that God has for them domestically, financially, and spiritually.
- This is an important area for the husbands to develop in. He may not be the best of leaders, and he may even make big mistakes or unfortunate blunders. Nevertheless, this does not mean the wife should do a "hostile takeover" or perform a "mutiny" by seizing control of the Family Ship. Rather she needs to be patient, forgiving, and also very encouraging to her husband, as he assumes the role of Leader to his family. Many men do not lead, because their wives won't let them lead. If they do, they do it with a large amount of skepticism, cynicism, and doubt. This is counter-productive and tells the man that you don't trust him, don't believe in him. It shows a complete lack of RESPECT for your husband.
- Rather, tell him you appreciate the GOOD THINGS he's done, and the successful decisions he's made for your family. If you make him feel like he's a good leader, he can actually BECOME A GOOD LEADER! Many of the great male leaders of our world, only became this way because of the rock solid support, encouragement, and genuine respect of their wives!
 - *The Governor and his wife were passing by a construction project one day...*
- **Wives, your husband will know you appreciate his service & leadership...**
 - *When you don't try to control or change his decisions for the family.*
 - *When you support and encourage him for his efforts to lead.*
 - *When you tell your children that he is "King of the Castle" and in charge.*
 - *When you make him feel like he is a great leader you genuinely respect.*

I nsight: *Express appreciation for his **counsel & problem-solving.***

- **God has designed men to naturally be solution-oriented.** Men love to solve problems, to share their strategy on fixing a situation, and to be helpful in overcoming an obstacle.
- **However, in many marriages, it's all too common for a wife to simply ignore** or write-off a husband's insights and suggestions, because she thinks she doesn't need them, or he simply has no right to give them. Even though many times the wife simply wants her husband to listen to her, without trying to fix everything, she needs to realize this is a God-given desire inside of him. The couple should examine the situation together, and work as a team to find a solution. It's true that women often have a special intuition, and the husband should listen to that. But it's also true that women have blind spots in their lives and need the insight and counsel of their husbands.
- **Wives, your husband will know you appreciate his counsel & problem-solving...**
 - *When you thank him for his advice, without acting insulted.*
 - *When you allow him to "fix things" and then applaud his solutions.*
 - *When you express your appreciation for his ideas, perception, and godly counsel to your life.*

R **relationship:** *Express appreciation for his friendship & companionship.*

- **God has naturally designed men to grow close, by doing activities together, "shoulder to shoulder".** Over time, these experiences of being side by side with other men, result in a sense of bonding and attachment. This often takes place when men play sports together, work side by side, train together as partners, fight on a team next to each other, or even go to war together - protecting each other's lives, even to the point of death. These "shoulder to shoulder" experiences in which they work together, sweat together, suffer together, and even bleed together is deep form of friendship to a man.
- **Then one day, this same man, leaves his "blood-brothers" behind,** finds the girl of his dreams, and gets married! Because he's a man with this unique perspective on companionship, he naturally assumes that now he and his wife will be together, shoulder-to-shoulder, just as he has been with his other male friends. All he wants is this: "Let's do something together, side-by-side, shoulder-to-shoulder!" This can be anything from taking a walk together, going to a movie, exercising together, or just watching TV. This is one of the most effective things a wife can do to strengthen the marriage bonds!
- **All of these simple requests are opportunities for the wife to show the husband** that she respects and loves him, by showing interest in what

interests him. The bride who wants to show her husband that she cares for him, that she is still his close friend, will be patient to his "strange request" to simply be next to him, or sit with him. When he invites her into this type of companionship, he's working in their relationship in a significant way...in his mind! From your husband's perspective, enjoying "quality time" together, doesn't always need to include deep & meaningful conversation. He just wants you by his side!

- **Wives, your husband will know you appreciate his friendship & companionship...**
 - *When you take time to sit with him, and watch his favorite show.*
 - *When you do activities shoulder-to-shoulder, and act truly interested.*
 - *When you say "yes" the next time he invites you to be by his side.*

Sexuality: Express appreciation for his desire for **sexual & romantic intimacy**.

- **A man has a natural, innate, God-given hunger for physical and sexual intimacy with his wife.** He does not naturally express this appetite through affection or romance, but will grow to do so over time. A tremendous way for the wife to show love, honor, and respect for her husband, is to choose to make herself available to him for this intimacy. Even better, as a wife, be sure to keep the romantic and sexual flame of excitement during in your marriage. Keep things fun, creative, and passionate...to whatever degree blesses and satisfies your husband!
 - **1 Cor 7:3-4** - *"Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does"*
- **Wives, your husband will know you appreciate his sexual & romantic intimacy...**
 - *When you don't refuse his requests, but welcome them.*
 - *When you show initiative and pleasure in regularly being intimate with him.*
 - *When you tell him how attractive and handsome he still is to you.*

SOME APPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER....

- **As a wife, you don't have to struggle and push to get what you want in your marriage.** You don't need to fight and struggle with your husband, as you try to move closer to him. There is another way, a more effective way to get his love, and the Scriptures tell you what it is: Respect him; Honor him; Lovingly submit to his leadership - this will win him over!

- **This is the key to empowerment and encouragement for the wives:** You will get from him what YOU need (love), when you give HIM what he needs (respect)!
- **For Wives:** *Are there any attitudes in your thinking and your lifestyle that need adjusting towards your husband? Do you understand that he has a vital NEED for RESPECT and honor in the home? Are you willing to spell out the word love, by spelling it R-E-S-P-E-C-T? Are you willing to give him RESPECT and SUBMISSION in a way that will meet his needs?*

For Husbands: *Have you expressed to your wife your needs in these areas? Take time this week, and discuss how these are a genuine reality to you, and how you can work together in love, to keep strengthening your marriage bonds.*