

Life-long marital romance while in ministry.

What? A simple command: Love each other!

1. Jesus makes it a command so we are freed from the tyranny of our moods or circumstances.
2. Jesus describes and models it for us. Eph. 5:25-27
3. Jesus shows us we already know how to love this way . . . toward ourselves. Eph. 5:28-29
4. Jesus describes in marriage: blessing your spouse when they don't deserve it. 1 Peter 3:9-12

Why? Enormous reasons to love our spouse?

1. It glorifies Christ. Portrays His love for His people. Eph. 5:25-27
2. It blesses your spouse. Eph. 5:25-27
3. It overcomes insurmountable conflict and anger. Col. 3:12-14

How? How are we to love so our spouse so they feel loved?

1. A wife feels loved when her husband understands her. 1 Pet 3:7

- A. **"Understanding"** a wife included insight into the physical and dispositional makeup of her. The word is used in Romans 15:14 of knowledge necessary to counsel.
- B. A husband must allow insight into his wife to govern the way He lives with her all their days.
- C. **Relating to a wife with insight communicates love her, and is pleasing to God.** It eliminates male insensitivity, which often tempts a wife to resentment. Prov. 18:13

What must a husband understand about his wife? Everything.

- a. Her physical differences.
- b. Her emotional differences. She is often aware of needs in more practical ways.
- c. Her security differences. Often anxious over things her husband is not. She has a danger/security radar that effects her moods. She has multiple "screens" up in her mind.
- d. Her feminine differences. Genesis 2:18
 1. She desires to be lovingly led as his full equal. 1 Timothy 3:4-5; 5:8
 2. She desires to help him as an equal partner and closest counselor. Genesis 2:18; Prov. 31:11
 3. She desires relational oneness leading to physical oneness. Genesis 2:24

How can a husband understand his wife?

1. As a intentional priority. It is not intuitive or it would not have to be commanded. Husbands are naturally more concerned with their spouse understanding them. Phil. 2:3-5; 21
2. Talk to God before you talk to your wife, asking Him to give you a heart to understand her.
3. Be considerate. Make it easy for your spouse to share. Prov. 20:5
4. Focus on listening to understand her, not on what you want to say. Proverbs 18:2
5. Ask clarifying questions. Restate what you think she means. James 1:19-20
6. Don't give quick responses. Proverbs 18:13
7. Don't get angry or minimize what they say. James 1:20-21
8. Ask forgiveness and empathize.
9. Remember. what you learn about your wife. Write them down.
10. Change the way you treat her according to your understanding of her. James 1:22-25

2. A wife feels loved when her husband supremely treasures her. 1 Peter 3:7

What this means:

To “Honor” your wife in 1 Peter 3:7 means to value, treasure her.

What does ‘honor mean? It means to value. It is often translated “Price”; When speaking of people it means acknowledging to them their appropriate price or respect.

Acts 28:10 They also **honored us with many ¹marks of respect**; and when we were setting sail, they ²supplied *us* with ³all we needed.

1 Peter. 2:17 All men are due appropriate honor; a king is due appropriate honor

Why this is crucial.

1. A wife is to be supremely treasured, valued and honored by her husband or she is dishonored. She is his supreme relationship on earth and partner by covenant. Genesis 2:24; Mal. 2:14
2. A husband’s relationship with ministry for God is hindered if he is not honoring his wife.

What makes a wife feel supremely treasured by her husband?

1. He understands her above all others. 1 Peter 3:7
2. He pleases her above all others. Ephesians 5:25-27
3. He wants to be with her above all others.
4. He listens to her counsel above all others. Genesis 2:18
5. He confides in her above all others. Proverbs 31:11
6. He delights in her beauty and intimacy above all others. Proverbs 5:16-18
7. He protects and provides for her above all others. 1 Timothy 5:8
8. Show sacrifices for her above all others. Eph. 5:25-27

3. A husband feels loved by his wife when she respects him. Eph. 5:33; 1 Peter 3:1-2

1. Be aware of a disrespectful attitude.
2. Affirm and appreciate him privately and publicly.
3. Defer to his decisions after counseling him unless they are sinful.
4. When he fails:
 1. Don’t insult him, but counsel and encourage him. Eph. 4:15; Heb. 3:12
 2. Don’t be sarcastic or nagging. Proverbs 21:13; 27:15
 3. Don’t rehearse his past failures. Psalm 103:10,13
 4. Don’t compare him to others.
 5. Ask his forgiveness for this. Ephesians 4:29
5. Counsel him. Speak truth to him in gentle respectful way. Prov. 31:11

4. A husband longs for his wife to desire him.

- a. A wife’s sexual intimacy with her husband, is a significant way God blesses and refreshes her husband, so that he delights in, and feels loved by his wife. Proverbs 5:16-18
- b. A husband is blessed when his wife compliments his physical appearance. Song of Songs 5:2-6
- c. A husband is blessed when his wife shows sexual interest and delight in him. Song of Solomon 2:3-6; 4:16; 5:10-16; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5

d. 1 Corinthians 7:1-5. Passion-driven sex is good, but temporary. It's often fueled mainly by one's sexual desire, instead of a serving desire, that is a decision to bless the spouse. When sexual intimacy is only self-desire not love driven it is often delayed until a 'feeling' of sexual desire comes leading to less sexual intimacy. Often this results in decrease oneness in marriage and increase in frustration or temptation by a spouse. Sexual intimacy is a decision to bless your spouse. God usually creates sexual desires when a spouse's main focus is on blessing their spouse, not themselves.

e. Ask God to allow you to bless your husband through sexual intimacy. Focus on loving and blessing Him, not on your moods. Proverbs 5:15-17; Song of Solomon 4:15

5. Use God's means to restore a sinning husband. 1 Peter 3:1-6

a. **Don't sinfully respond to your sinning husband.** You may tempt him to bitterness. Colossians 3:19

1. Don't disrespect him, it tempts him to anger. 1 Peter 3:1
2. Don't nag him, it tempts him to withdraw. 1 Peter 3:1; Prov. 21:19; 27:15
3. Don't argue but communicate with a gentle, respectful spirit. 1 Pet. 3:2-4
4. Don't fear but trust in the Lord. 1 Peter 3:5-
5. Don't threaten to leave him. 1 Peter 3:1-2
6. Don't withhold sexual intimacy from him. 1 Corinthians 7:1-5

b. **Get God's burden for His soul!** 1 Peter 3:1

1. A husband's lack of love for his wife reveals a lack of relationship with God.
2. Understand a wife is God's main channel of helping her husband get right with Him. 1 Peter 3:1-2; 1 Corinthians 7:12-16

c. **Let God encourage you.**

1. Focus on pleasing and glorifying God. 1 Peter 3:4
2. Trust in God, knowing he cares for you. 1 Peter 3:5-6; 5:7-10

d. **Don't ignore his sin but confront him clearly and gently to restore him to obedience to God.** Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 4:15; Matthew 18:15

e. **If he continues in sin, follow the lord's instructions in Matthew 18:15-17:**

1. Speak to 1-2 church elders to confirm his sin and urge him to obey God.
2. If he continues to sin the elders will let the church know so they all can pray for and urge him to obey God.
3. If he continues to sin, the elders will remove him from the church yet continue to love and seek to restore him. 2 Thess. 3:15

f. **If a wife chooses she may separate from him if his sin is violating their marriage covenant.** 1 Corinthians 7:10-16; Matthew 19:3-9

How can we love? The Three biblical 'R's' :

Recognize - when you are unloving. 1 Cor. 13:4-7

Repent - Confess to God and ask your spouse's forgiveness.

Replace - Immediately begin to focus on obeying Christ, asking Him to strengthen you. 1 Peter 3:9

