

For Husbands: Evangelizing Your Wife

evangelize. (1) to preach the gospel, (2) to impart the gospel to others through word and deed, (3) to be a living embodiment of the gospel in relationship with others.

1 Thessalonians 1:5. For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

6 Ways

... to be “Good News” to Your Wife

Instruction #1: Love your wife as _____ loved the _____.

Ephesians 5. “(25) Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; (26) **That** he might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, (27) **That** he might present her to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but **that** she should be holy and without blemish.”

A. _____.

B. _____.

“After marriage, the biggest single influence on the development of the wife’s personality and character is the husband. When a man comes to me and complains that his wife has changed since they got married, I immediately respond, ‘What do you suppose changed her?’ In a sense, the wife a man has is the wife he has produced. If he has a monster, maybe he ought to examine his own nature. . . . In the Ephesians passage, it is clear that the husband . . . is responsible for the spiritual well-being of his wife. Her sanctification is his responsibility. There is probably no male task that has been more neglected than this one. . . . In seeking the sanctification of the church, there is a sense in which Christ seeks

to change His wife. So the husband is called to change his wife. The change is to be toward a higher conformity to the image of Christ. We should seek to present our wives to Christ as holy and blameless, without spot or wrinkle! (The Intimate Marriage, R.C. Sproul)

C. _____.

Instruction #2: Love your wife as your own _____, just like _____ loves the church.

Ephesians 5. (28) So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. (29) For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: (30) For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.”

- “nourisheth” = to fatten, feed, nourish, nurse (*Luke 23:29*)
- “cherisheth” = to show affection & tender care, to warm, to give your own warmth to another (*1 Thessalonians 2:7*)

Instruction #3: Love your wife as you do _____, just like _____ does the church.

Ephesians 5. “(32) This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. (33) Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”

Instruction #4: Dwell with your wife ‘according to _____,’

1 Peter 3:7. “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

“The prayers here are those prayed together by husbands and wives. It is also true that the individual prayers of the husband will be hindered if he does not live with his wife in an understanding way and if he does not show honor to her. But here the text speaks of mutual prayer. Peter assumes that Christian couples pray together.” (Don Whitney, Family Worship)

A. “knowledge” of _____

B. “knowledge” of _____

C. “knowledge” of her and your _____ (“as unto the weaker vessel”)

“Remember still that you are both diseased persons, full of infirmities; and therefore expect the fruit of those infirmities in each other; and make not a strange matter of it, as if you had never known of it before. If you had married one that is lame, would you be angry at her for limping? Or you had married one that had a putrid ulcer, would you fall out with her because it stinketh? Did you not know beforehand, that you married a person of such weakness, as would yield you some manner of daily trial and offense? If you could not bear this, you should not have married her; if you resolved that you could bear it then, you are obliged to bear it now. Resolve therefore to bear with one another; as remembering that you took one another as sinful, frail, imperfect persons, not as angels, or as blameless and perfect” (Richard Baxter).

D. “knowledge” of the _____!!!!

Instruction #5: _____ **her as a fellow-heir of the grace of life.**

1 Peter 3:7. “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

Instruction #6: _____ **for & with your wife.**

1 Peter 3:7. “. . . that your prayers be not hindered.”

A. Prayer is the _____ of marriage.

Ephesians 1:4. “. . . He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him” (*see also John 15:16*)

B. Prayer is the first _____.

C. Prayer is _____.

2 Chronicles 20:12. “. . . we are powerless . . . nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You.”

D. Prayer provides an opportunity to _____ gospel truths about your wife, along with evidences of grace that you see in her.

Benefits of Praying With and For Your Wife

1. God might actually answer your prayers!
2. When you pray for your wife, you are functioning as her advocate before God. Functioning in this role before God in prayer has a way of helping you to remain her advocate in the other areas of your life.
3. If you pray for your wife faithfully, then you will tend to be on the lookout for ways that God is answering your prayers. With this mindset, you are more likely to notice evidences of grace in your wife (even small ones) – and rejoice in them.
4. If you pray for your wife faithfully, you will find yourself being more mindful of God’s role in your marriage and in your wife’s life.
 - a) Your confidence will increasingly be in HIM, not in HER.
 - b) Your confidence will increasingly be in HIM, not in YOURSELF (in trying to produce changes in her)
5. If you pray for your wife faithfully, you will tend to be more patient with her failings and imperfections, because you will rest more confidently in the fact that God is working and will address such matters in his perfect timing.
6. If your wife hears you (as you pray together) passionately advocating on her behalf in the presence of God, she is more likely to assume you are “for her” in other areas. Such a presumption on her part will tend to eliminate cynicism, mistrust, and misunderstandings that might otherwise be there.
7. If you are confessing your sins, your ignorance, and your weaknesses in prayer before your wife, it is likely that God will give you favor in the eyes of your wife. At the very least, you will enjoy favor from Him. (*James 4:8*)
8. If you are using your prayer time to thankfully celebrate your wife, her gospel story, and the evidences of grace that you observe in her, you will likely have a wife who is encouraged, lifted up, affirmed, and beautified in the gospel. And who wouldn’t want a wife like this?!!