

## How to Love Your Husband

Text: **Titus 2:3-5** – *Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved much wine, teaching what is good, that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.*

I. First requirement – To Love God

**I John 4:19** – *We love, because He first loved us.*

If we do not first love God and cultivate our relationship with Him, then we cannot love our husbands in the way God intended.

**Colossians 2:6,7** – *As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.*

Just like a plant in the garden needs daily care to grow strong and produce fruit, so we need to give daily tending to our relationship with God to be spiritually healthy ourselves and to lead spiritually productive lives. We do not want to be cut flowers but rooted.

As we are in this process (**II Corinthians 3:18, Romans 12:2**), we need to be careful that we don't just adjust our standards to be a little bit better than the world's standards, without following God's standards wholeheartedly. I may not consider divorce an option in my marriage, but am I committed to loving my husband and serving him as a priority? Above my own interests?

How do I do this? What does it mean to truly love my husband as God intends?

II. Second requirement – Submission to His Authority

**Ephesians 5:22** – *Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord...*

**Ephesians 5:23** – *For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church...*

**Ephesians 5:24** – *But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything...*

The Greek word here is “hupotasso,” used 40 times in the Greek New Testament. It was a common military term, meaning “to rank under.”

Basically, this means what it says. Wives are to live under the authority of their husbands. This is God’s plan for order in the family. It has nothing to do with value or the worth (or abilities) of women. (**Galatians 3:27,28**) This does not mean that we cannot have input--valuable input—or that we cannot make decisions on our own. It means that we freely submit ourselves to be under the authority of our husbands. We support them completely in their decisions when they are made. It means that we will not fight or rebel or argue or manipulate to get our own way. This is a gift, an expression of our love, that we give our husbands.

When we, as wives, do this, we are doing it in obedience to God, trusting Him to work through our husbands’ leadership to accomplish His purposes for our family.

III. But God’s standard for submission is not just living under our husband’s authority. It also means that we respect him. It’s an even higher standard – not just enduring his leadership but seeking to support him in it.

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

**I Peter 3:1,2** – *In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.*

Submission is powerful because it is obedience to God and God rewards obedience. We are submitting first to God, then to our husbands, giving him the gift of our respect.

How do I show respect for my husband?

A. Public honor, especially with my speech

**Ephesians 4:29** – *Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

We want our words to build up, not tear down; to suit the occasion, and to make our husbands look good in the eyes of others.

We don't need to interrupt him, use sarcasm, criticize him before others. If he tells a story and uses incorrect details, I don't need to correct him publicly. This kind of speech can become a habit. We just need to learn to think before we speak.

**Proverbs 12:4** – *An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who shames him is as rottenness in his bones.*

Do you want to be a crown or a cancer?

**Proverbs 11:22** – *As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, so is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.*

Avoid "venting" sessions with other women. Some things should not be shared with anyone else. Be careful of gossip sessions which we call prayer.

**Matthew 12:34** - *...for the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.*

We need to choose carefully what we read, watch and listen to—TV, movies, music, books, internet.

Remember **Romans 12:2** – We are not being conformed to the world but being transformed by God's work in us to His standards.