

~ Respecting Your Husband ~

*“...let the wife see that she respects her husband.”
Ephesians 5:33*

Before you begin this lesson, ask the Lord to wash your heart and mind, to refill you with His Holy Spirit and to soften your heart so that it is ready to receive His instruction.

1. Review **1 Timothy 2:12-14**. Why do you think God designed the authority structure the way in which He did?

2. In a marriage, the wife is to submit to and respect her husband. Read **Ephesians 5**. What does each of the following verses mean to you in a practical way?

Verse 18 ~

Verse 21 ~

Verse 22 ~

Verse 33b ~

3. Define “*submission*” and “*respect*”.

Submission ~

Respect ~

4. Do you think there is a difference between “*obedience*” and “*submission*”? Please explain.

5. Do you think there is ever a time in which a wife does not need to submit to her husband? Please see **Acts 4** especially **verses 17-20** and **Acts 5:17-32** especially **verse 29**.

6. Read 1 Peter 3:1-6. Why do you think submission could “win” a husband to the Lord?

7. In each of the following situations, how can a wife demonstrate submission and respect towards a husband?

To a dictatorial husband ~

To a passive husband ~

In disagreeing with a husband’s decision ~

Responding to a husband’s anger/disappointment/criticism or other unpleasant emotion ~

8. In **Titus 2:5** wives are admonished to be “*obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.*” How do you think God’s word would be blasphemed (reviled, treated irreverently) by failure in this area?

9. In what ways could a wife show **dis**respect to her husband?

10. Ask the Lord to open your ears this week so that you may hear the way you talk to your husband; the tone in which you use. Is there any disrespect in your tone?

Ask the Lord to reveal to you the attitude of your heart when you disagree with a decision your husband makes. Are you submitting on the outside while rebelling on the inside?

May each of us humble ourselves before the Lord and His authority in our lives so that we honor and respect our husbands and therefore glorify the Lord.

Read and meditate on 1 Corinthians 13:1-8. Allow the Lord to search your heart as you ask yourself the following questions:

Love suffers long – Am I patient with my husband?

Love is kind – Am I kind to my husband? Are my words to him kind?

Love does not envy – Do I envy my husband or harbor any bitterness toward him?

Love does not parade itself, is not puffed up – Do I boast about MY way of doing things? Do I show my husband that I value his ways and ideas?

Love does not behave rudely – Do I show my husband courtesy? Do I treat guests and strangers better than I treat my husband?

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Love does not seek its own – Do I esteem my husband above myself? Above our children? How can I make him feel important and valued?

Love is not provoked – Do I antagonize or attempt to manipulate my husband?

Love thinks no evil – Do I assume the worst about my husband? Do I judge his thoughts and motives?

Love does not rejoice in iniquity – Am I an influence for purity in my husband's life?

Love rejoices in the truth – Do I encourage my husband in God's word? Am I willing to hear God's truth from my husband?

Love bears all things – Do I support my husband and encourage him in his weaknesses?

Love believes all things – Do I give my husband the "benefit of the doubt"?

Love hopes all things – Do I trust the Lord to complete the work that He has begun in my husband without trying to do it myself?

Love endures all things – Does my husband know that I will be with him through thick and thin?

LOVE NEVER FAILS