

The Glory of God and a wife's respect for her husband

Ephesians 5:33

Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband. NASB

What is respect for my husband?

God's original design for woman's role - *sinless woman, full of love, in her joyful, responsive support for man's leadership* (John Piper)

sinless woman – Here is our great Christian desire, to “*go and sin no more.*” Our affection is to follow Christ and love Him and serve Him and never sin against Him.

full of love – Does this describe your thoughts and demeanor toward your husband? Are you “full of love” toward him? Your hearts should overflow with love for your husband. If it does not, cry out to God for it, it comes from Him. Love is a fruit of the Spirit, who is in you!

in her joyful support - Out of the well of your heart should flow the God glorifying water of gentle and quiet submission. Is it your hearts desire to support and affirm your husband's leadership? Do you joyfully submit to his guidance? You should. If it is not your inner desire to happily submit to him, you surely are not glorifying God in your actions. A wife who rebels and disdains her husband's leadership dishonors God, but a wife who joyfully supports her husband's leadership glorifies God!

Ephesians 5:22-24 - 22 **Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.** NASB
responsive support – When your husband gives guidance and provides direction and leadership, you should respond and fulfill his desire! Your response should look similar to the church's proper response to Christ! Submission is the beauty of a godly woman!

1 Peter 3:5-6 - 5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, **being submissive to their own husbands.** 6 Thus **Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord,** and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear. NASB

for man's leadership – Her husband is her God appointed leader. The husband is the head of the wife in the same manner as Christ is the head of the church. The sense is, she is subordinate to him; and in all circumstances - in her attitude, her dress, her conversation, in public and in the family circle--should recognize her subordination to him.

1 Corinthians 11:3 - 3 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the **man is the head of a woman,** and God is the head of Christ. NASB

Biblical submission for the wife is the divine calling to honor and affirm her husband's leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts (John Piper)

the divine calling – A woman's purpose in life is defined by God. It is **God who has called you to marriage** and given you the exact husband you have. A woman should

therefore joyfully accept that good place where God has put her and be thankful to Him for it! This glorifies God!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - 16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 **in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.** NASB

to honor her husband's leadership – Because the husband's role as head of the wife is authority which has been ordained by God, the wife should honor that leadership. This honor should not just be merely outward conformity but the inner quality of the heart! This glorifies God!

Ephesians 5:23,33 - 23 **For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church,** He Himself being the Savior of the body. 33 Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and **let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.** NASB

affirm her husband's leadership – Even then as she honors her husband's leadership in her heart, she should then affirm and even encourage that leadership with her thoughts, words and actions. This glorifies God!

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

and help carry it through – Here is how a wife brings great benefit to herself and her children, by helping the husband to fulfill his God ordained role. She is a helper to him.* This is the purpose for which she was made, a suitable helper to her husband! This glorifies God!

Genesis 2:18 - 18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; **I will make him a helper suitable for him.**" NASB

according to her gifts – God has uniquely gifted the wife to fit with the husbands gifts to bring about fulfillment in marriage. The Lord has chosen a mate for you and put you with him to bring a perfect balance to your life and to his! This glorifies God!

Ephesians 2:10 - 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.** NASB

Why should I respect my husband?

- **To Glorify God by obedience to him** - It is your God given responsibility to respect your husband in order to glorify God. God has commanded you to respect your husband.
Ephesians 5:33 - 33 Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and **let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.** NASB
 - A disrespectful wife dishonors God and His Word!
Titus 2:4-5 - that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, **being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.** NASB
- **To glorify God by maintaining a pure heart** – What does a pure heart look like for a married woman? Purity of heart for her is indeed an inner quality of respect and honor toward her God given husband.
Matthew 5:8 - 8 "**Blessed are the pure in heart,** for they shall see God. NASB
- **To glorify God by enjoying His benefits and blessing**

- **God's blessing** – God's blessing of inner peace, joy and fulfillment follow those who obey Him!
Luke 11:28 - But He said, "On the contrary, **blessed are those who hear the word of God, and observe it.**" NASB
- **Affection** – So as to secure his affection. Is your demeanor towards your husband glorifying God? Is it the same demeanor you have towards Christ? Is your behavior toward your husband worthy of his love?
Barnes - Wives should manifest such a character as to be worthy of love. They owe this to their husbands. They demand the confidence and affection of man; and they should show that they are worthy of that confidence and affection. It is not possible to love that which is unlovely, nor to force affection where it is undeserved; and, as a wife expects that a husband will love her more than he does any other earthly being, it is but right that she should evince such a spirit as shall make that proper. A wife may easily alienate the affections of her partner in life. If she is irritable and fault-finding; if none of his ways please her; if she takes no interest in his plans, and in what he does; if she forsakes her home when she should be there, and seeks happiness abroad; or, if at home, she never greets him with a smile; if she is wasteful of his earnings, and extravagant in her habits, it will be impossible to prevent the effects of such a course of life on his mind. And when a wife perceives the slightest evidence of alienated affection in her husband, she should inquire at once whether she has not given occasion for it, and exhibited such a spirit as tended inevitably to produce such a result.
- **Endears a husbands commitment genuinely** – What a joy it is for a husband to love and serve a wife who is gentle and quiet and obviously joyfully supporting and affirming his leadership. This gives a man tremendous confidence and endears his loving commitment to his wife! It will be his privilege to serve her!

- **To glorify God by teaching your children the value of proper submission to authority** - It is a lesson unto your children. A wife who honors her husband teaches her children to honor her husband and God! This glorifies God! A wife who dishonors her husband teaches her children to dishonor God. Good Christian wife, what are you teaching your children by the way you treat your husband?
Ephesians 6:4 -but **bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord** NASB

How do I respect my husband?

- **As unto the Lord** – Treat him in the same manner that you would treat Christ! Honor him, serve him, humble yourself before him, and strive to always respect him in your thoughts, words and actions!
Ephesians 5:22-24 - 22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, **as to the Lord.** NASB
- **Gently and quietly** – A Christian wife who **“talks back”** and frequently challenges her husbands direction or speaks **“aggressive challenging words”** to him dishonors God and brings shame and reproach to the name of Christ! Let it never be named among you and your house, but rather the

unfading beauty of a meek and quiet spirit! Seek that virtue in your heart which is “*precious in the sight of God,*” a gentle and quiet spirit! “Chaste and respectful behavior” is the way a truly godly woman “adorns herself!”

1 Peter 3:1-4 - 3:1 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, 2 as they observe your **chaste and respectful behavior**. 3 And let not your adornment be merely external — braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; 4 but let it be **the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit**, which is precious in the sight of God. NASB

- **Not controlling or manipulating - not usurping** - A Christian wife who truly trusts God understands that God is ultimately in control of her life, not her husband! God will watch out for you and care for you and your children, and he will use your husband as the means in many ways. A Christian wife should joyfully submit to her husband's direction and not try to manipulate him into doing her will. Further she should never seek to usurp his authority and disobey his directives, this would dishonor God!

Titus 2:4-5 - that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, **being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored**. NASB

- **Seek respect for him genuinely in your heart** – If these virtues do not live in your heart, they will never live in your words and actions! You must seek to possess this respect for your husband in your heart!

William Burkitt - And let the wife see that she reverences her husband. The great duty which the wife owes to her husband is reverence. This is made up of three ingredients; namely, estimation, love, and fear: the wife that reverences her husband, esteems him and dares not think meanly of him; her esteem of him provokes her love unto him; and her love of him is accompanied with an ingenuous fear to offend and grieve him; and the wife expresses this reverence in her gestures, by a respectful demeanour towards him; in her speeches to him when with her, and of him when absent from her, always mentioning him with respect and honour; in her actions, by complying with his desires, by following his directions, by hearkening to his reproofs, and by her cheerful and respectful behaviour towards him at all times and in all places, as well at home as abroad before the world. And that the wife may thus reverence her husband, let her be earnest with God in prayer, for wisdom and understanding, for prudence and patience, for humility and meekness: a proud spirit would not agree with an angel, but the humble will agree with any person.

- **Cry out to God for help** – Ladies, these things CANNOT happen without God's help! He will be your strength and your helper!

Philippians 4:13 - 13 **I can do all things through Him who strengthens me**. NASB