

The Church, God's Plan for This Age: Love and Respect in Marriage

Ephesians 5:25-33

January 17, 2021

1. A Husband Demonstrates Love to His Wife through Leadership (23)
2. A Husband Demonstrates Love to His Wife through Love (25-27)
3. A Husband Demonstrates Love to His Wife through Care (28-33)
 - a. Husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies (28).
 - i. Husbands are to love their wives as themselves (Leviticus 19:18; Galatians 5:14).
 - b. Husbands are to nourish and cherish their wives (29).
 - i. These are words used to refer to the kind of care parents provide for their children.
 - ii. Husbands are to consider how Christ presently cares for His church and follow His lead in tenderly caring and providing for their wives.
 - c. Husbands are to love their wives because the two have become an integral part of one another (30-32).
 - i. Just as the church shares a special union with Christ, a husband and wife share a special union (31).
 - ii. A husband and wife have been joined (glued) together as the church has been joined to Christ (32).

How to Spell Love to Your Wife:

1. Show love to your wife through **C**loseness (Genesis 2:24).
 - a. Am I remembering to move toward her and accept her need to talk and connect with me to be reassured of my love?
2. Show love to your wife through **O**penness (Colossians 3:19).
 - a. Do I share my thoughts with her, and am I sure I'm not resisting her efforts to draw me out?
3. Show love to your wife through **U**nderstanding (1 Peter 3:7).
 - a. Am I careful not to try to "fix" her every time she talks about one of her concerns or problems? Am I remembering that she is an integrated personality and whatever happens affects all of her, esp. her emotions?
4. Show love to your wife through **P**eacemaking (1 Peter 3:8-11).
 - a. Am I willing to resolve issues, and am I careful to never say, "Let's just drop it and move on"?
5. Show love to your wife through **L**oyalty (Proverbs 20:6; Hebrews 13:4).
 - a. Do I constantly look for ways to tell her that I will be loyal to her forever – that she's the one love of my life, the only woman for me?
6. Show love to your wife through **E**steem (Proverbs 5:18; Song of Solomon 8:6).
 - a. Do I always let her know that I treasure her and put highest value on her as a person? Do I let her know that what she does and thinks are important to me? Does she know I couldn't possibly do without her?

How to Spell Respect to Your Husband:

1. **C**onquest – appreciate his desire to work and achieve (Genesis 2:15).
 - a. Am I standing behind him and letting him know I support him in his work and endeavors in his field?
2. **H**ierarchy – appreciate his desire to protect and provide (1 Timothy 5:8).
 - a. Do I let him know I respect and appreciate his desire to protect and provide for me and the family? What have I said recently to communicate this?
3. **A**uthority – appreciate his desire to serve and lead (1 Peter 3:1-2).
 - a. Have I gone on record that, because he has the primary responsibility for me (even to die for me), I recognize him as having the primary authority? Do I let him be the leader?
4. **I**nsight – appreciate his desire to analyze and counsel (1 Timothy 2:11-15).
 - a. Do I trust his ability to analyze things and offer solutions and not just depend on my "intuition"?
5. **R**elationship – appreciate his desire for shoulder to shoulder friendship (Genesis 2:18-24).
 - a. Do I spend shoulder to shoulder time with him whenever I can? Do I let him know that I am his friend as well as his lover?
6. **S**exuality – appreciate his desire for sexual intimacy (1 Corinthians 7:3).
 - a. Do I honor his need for sexual release even when I don't feel like it?