



Christian Marriage Today



WHAT YOUR HUSBAND NEEDS

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Welcome to the online Bible study lesson – What Your Husband Needs. For some reason, men have gotten the short end of the stick when it comes to their emotional needs. If magazine covers were our barometers, we could assume that men only want two things: sex and sports. But if you read your Bible, you will soon discover that just like women, men have emotional needs. There is one special need that men have which we will highlight in this Bible study. We pray you will be blessed as you apply yourself to learning what your husband needs.

Memory Verse: *“However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” Ephesians 5:33, NIV*

As you struggle to create the marriage you dreamed of, you sometimes throw up your hands in total frustration. You feel as if your husband doesn’t understand your needs. And while that may likely be the case, you do not have the power to change the behavior of your spouse. The behavior you can most effectively change is your own.

Additionally, the Bible says that we reap what we sow. So, why not sow “effort” into understanding what your husband needs and trust that you will reap from your husband that which you have sown, understanding.

R---E---S---P---E---C---T

FIND OUT WHAT IT MEANS TO HIM?

“However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” *Ephesians 5:33, NIV*

In the book of Ephesians, Paul admonishes wives to respect their husbands. Oddly enough, nowhere in scripture are wives ever instructed to “love” their husbands. Does this mean God doesn’t care if wives love their husbands? Not hardly. God is love and His expectation is that we as Christians would demonstrate His perfect love to those we meet, especially our mates.

What Paul realized is that God created men and women completely different with two different sets of needs. While receiving a bouquet of flowers may cause you to feel loved, your husband feels most loved when he knows he has your respect. In fact, he needs your respect.

If you notice, in the text above, Paul is not merely making a suggestion to women. He doesn’t say, “it would be a good idea if you gave your husband respect” neither does he say “take it under consideration”. Paul says wives *must* respect their husbands, just as we were told in Matthew that we must forgive. The word must means that we have no alternative; it also means necessity.

That’s right, your respect is a necessity for your husband. He needs to know that you are his “safe place”. He needs to know that if no one else in the world believes in him, you believe in him. When he receives criticism from his boss, he needs to hear reassuring words from you. As the head of your household, he has a lot of responsibility on his shoulders. Not only that, but just as God held Adam responsible, as the head of the household, God is holding your husband accountable for his home being out of order. Now that’s a lot of pressure!

When you lose respect for him, you can expect a complete breakdown of your marriage will soon entail.

ASSIGNMENT #1:

- Memorize the memory verse and write it on the line below:



- The word “must” means:
 - Your husband needs to know that you are his _____ place.
 - Respecting your husband is an option (T or F).
 - You as the wife are responsible for what goes on in your home, and therefore, God is ultimately holding you responsible (T or F).
 - If you are disrespecting your husband, you are being disobedient to God’s word, and therefore sinning (T or F).
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BUT HE DOESN’T DESERVE MY RESPECT

“Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and import duties, and give respect and honor to all to whom it is due,” *Romans 13:7*

The word of God says that you are to give honor and respect to everyone who is due honor and respect. It has nothing to do with his behavior, or what you think of him as a person; his position of authority is what dictates you give him honor and respect.

For instance, if the President of the United States visited your home, you would show him due honor and respect, not because you agree with every decision he’s made but simply because of his position of authority.

Likewise, your husband deserves your respect not because you agree with every decision he has ever made but rather because God has placed him in a position of authority over you and your children.

You see, God doesn’t interact with us on a merit system. He operates in grace. In other words, he forgives and favors us not because we deserve it, but because He loves us. As a Christ follower, your heavenly Father expects no less from you.

BUT MY HUSBAND'S NOT SAVED

"In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands, even those who refuse to accept the Good News. Your godly lives will speak to them better than any words. They will be won over," 1 Peter 3:1 NLT

Paul in the scripture above is saying that even wives who have husbands who are not saved, are required to submit to their husband's authority. You see, the position of authority your husband has in the home is not contingent upon his position in the Body of Christ. Remember the example we gave using the President of the United States? It's about his position of authority, not his decisions, character, or salvation.

Your consistent Christ like way of relating to your husband will do much more to witness to him and bring him into the Body of Christ than your attitude of rebellion to God's word. If this is a struggle for you, pray daily until it becomes easier.

ASSIGNMENT #2:

- Romans 13:7 says to give honor and respect to _____
➤ _____

- Respect and honor are not contingent upon your husband's _____, _____, or _____.
- According to the word of God we must respect those who have a position of _____ even if they don't _____ it.
- Does God favor us based on grace or merit, meaning we must deserve it?
- If your husband is not saved, God does not expect you to respect or honor him. (T or F)
- What does 1 Peter 3:1 say? _____
➤ _____
➤ _____

SIGNS AND REPERCUSSIONS OF DISRESPECT

“A nagging wife is as annoying as the constant dripping on a rainy day,”

Proverbs 27:15

Here are a few signs that you may not respect your husband:

- Constant nagging
- Habitually questioning his decisions
- Talking to him in a condescending manner
- Sarcasm
- Distancing yourself emotionally
- Loss of sexual attraction for him
- Publically embarrassing him
- Talking negatively about him to family and friends

If you are guilty of any of the things listed above, not only do you owe your husband an apology, but you also need to repent to God for your behavior. In the book of James it says that righteousness does not grow out of anger. Basically what that means is that the wrong reaction to a thing or a person will not produce Godly results.

By disrespecting your husband and not honoring him as God instructs you to, you are opening a door in your marriage to the enemy. Every man was created with a desire/need to feel respected and honored. Below is a list of possible repercussions if you continue disrespecting your husband:

Here are a few possible repercussions of disrespecting your husband:

- He loses his attraction for you
- He begins reaching out to other females who respect him
- He stops communicating with you
- Distances himself from you emotionally
- His spirit becomes broken
- He gets depressed
- His self-esteem is diminished
- You are not blessed but rather chastised by God for being disobedient to His word.

WHAT ELSE DOES MY HUSBAND NEED?

The need for respect is an inherent need in every man that was placed there by God. But your husband has other needs that may be a result of his culture or past experiences. As you take a look at the following list, please know that it is critical that you understand the needs of your husband if you want a successful marriage.

A. **A Sexually Responsive Wife** to affirm his masculinity. Your husband needs to know that he can and does satisfy you sexually. Knowing that you are not satisfied after sex makes him feel less as a man. If you are not satisfied with your lovemaking then make an effort to improve it. Spice things up a bit by incorporating new things into your romantic times. Open the lines of communicate with your husband and let him know what feels good to you and what doesn't.

B. **Support** Proverbs 31:10-12 speaks of the excellent women whose husband trusts her and she does him good all the days of her life. This means that you will support and encourage him in his work, in public and through the seasons of life.

C. **Companion.** A man looks for his wife to enjoy the interests that he enjoys. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-11)

D. **Admiration.** Every man needs a wife who will admire him. A man has two mirrors in his life – his wife and his job. These mirrors reflect back to him strong messages about his manhood.

FINAL ASSIGNMENT:

➤ Proverbs 27:15 says _____



➤ What are the eight indicators of loss of respect for your husband?

_____, _____
_____, _____
_____, _____
_____, _____

➤ Are you guilty of any of the above behaviors? Which ones?

- List four possible repercussions of disrespecting your husband:

_____ , _____

_____ , _____

- Is respect an inherent need for your husband? Y / N

- What are four other needs your husband has?

_____ , _____

_____ , _____

- **Review the following scriptures:**

- Ephesians 5:33

- Romans 13:7

- Proverbs 27:15

- Proverbs 31:10-12

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-11