

Building a Godly Man
Lesson 4 – How Wives Can Build up Their Husbands
www.aubeacon.com

Introduction: God’s wisdom does not come from within but from God Himself.

- A. A common mistake we make is to rely on our own wisdom or “instincts.”
1. How many times have we been committed to a “pattern of failure” because of stubbornness or pride? (**Jer 10:23-24; Prov 16:1-2; Ps 37:23-25**)
 2. The wisdom of God is powerful and understandable! Why do more not find and heed it? Do we really trust God?
 3. The advice of the world is why there are major issues in men today! (**Jn 14:27**)
- B. God’s wisdom has shown us the differences between men and women.
1. The “unisex” movement and its advice is toxic and is certain to destroy men.
 2. God has shown us that the basic needs of men and women are different! (**Eph 5:33**)
 3. Our “instincts” even done in goodwill will cause us to give our mates what we need! That is done as a result of a lack of wisdom.

I. Wives must diligently learn what respect means.

A. God instructs wives to ***unconditionally respect their husbands!***

(Eph 5:33; 1 Pt 3:1-2 NASV)

1. This is similar to the unconditional love of God. (**Rom 5:8**)
2. It is easy to acknowledge this truth about respect but what does respect mean?
3. There are no circumstances where a wife should have no respect for her mate!

B. What does it mean for a wife to respect her husband?

Respect - (a) absolutely be frightened, be alarmed, be afraid (MT 10:31... (2) reverence, have respect for, fear; (a) toward God (LU 1:50); (b) toward a person (EP 5:33) – **Friberg Lexicon**

3. to reverence, venerate, to treat with deference or reverential obedience: Mark 6:20; Eph. 5:33; used of his devout worshippers, Luke 1:50; 18:2, 4; Acts 10:2, 22, 35... - **Thayer’s Lexicon**

1. Respect is not dishonesty or flattery. One should never esteem that which is condemned by God. (**Psa 12:2-3; Prov 26:28; Jude 16**)
2. We can draw similar lessons from our attitudes and actions towards our rulers! (**Acts 23:2-5; 2 Pt 2:10-11; 1 Tim 2:1-2**)
3. We should show respect for rulers and the place that they have because of God’s will. (Ex. How should a child act towards a difficult police officer?)
4. Respect first comes from a reverence towards God that then shows proper honor and obedience towards those God has placed in authority.
5. It is hard for a wife to understand her husband’s need for respect or to know the components of how to show respect. She needs teaching! (**Prov 19:14**)
6. It is assumed in scripture that each mate has goodwill towards the other! This should be acknowledged and built upon. (**1 Cor 7:33-34**)

II. Consider the basic components of showing respect to the husband

(These six points are from the book “Love and Respect” by Emerson Eggerichs)

A. Appreciate his desire to work and to achieve.

1. God has designed man to lead! Consider the creation of man and woman.
2. God gave man work in paradise! (**Gen 2:15, 19-20**)

3. Woman was *to be a “helper”* in Adam’s quest to work. In the Hebrew it means: “a help answering to him” or “one who answers.” **(Gen 2:18; 1 Cor 11:9)**
 4. A man finds *significant fulfillment in work*. By design God has placed within man a desire to accomplish and achieve.
 5. Listen and encourage the husband in his work. Often express thanks.
 6. Support him and ask for his guidance. Do not *look down on honorable work*.
- B. Appreciate his desire *to protect and to provide*.
1. A man seeks to protect his family by *providing physical things and by shielding the family from harm*. The man is at heart a warrior. **(1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 4:7)**
 2. When the family suffers from need the husband *is greatly burdened*. **(Eph 4:28)**
 3. The husband gladly will *put himself in danger to protect his family*.
 4. How *a man thinks and reacts* often will puzzle the wife. A strong and seemingly harsh stand may be the right thing to do under certain circumstances.
 5. A man may lack wisdom and fight the wrong battles however sincere!
 6. When a man forsakes this *he does not respect himself!* **(Heb 12:7; 1 Tim 5:8)**
- C. Appreciate his desire *to serve and to lead*.
1. God has placed the husband in a position of leadership. **(Eph 5:22-24)**
- Submit** - (1) active subject, bring under firm control, subordinate (RO 8.20b); (2) ... (a) .. compulsion have to submit (LU 10.17, 20); (b) ... voluntary submission be submissive, obey, subject oneself (LU 2.51; EP 5.21)
2. The wife will build up her husband by submission! **(1 Pt 3:1, 4)**
 3. As a godly husband I am humbled by *the great risk my wife took in placing herself under me*. I will want to listen to her and put her first!
 4. What risk does a Christian woman take marrying a non-Christian? Paul would never even consider marrying anyone but a Christian! **(1 Cor 9:5)**
 5. Show respect *by complement and encouragement*. A man can stand the turmoil of the world if he is respected at home. (Ex. Salesman waiting to see husband.)
- D. Appreciate his desire *to analyze and to council*.
1. Consider *the responsibility and wisdom* that is needed to lead. **(Eph 5:23-29)**
 2. The husband must know *where to take the family and how to get there!* A wise husband will also know when he does not know and where to get advice!
 3. A man finds respect in *knowing how to “fix things.”* He naturally will want to express his thoughts and show how to do it right!
- “recognize his problem-solving approach as his male brand of empathy!” – from *Love and Respect*
4. How does a wise wife *disagree while showing respect?*
(Prov21:9; 25:24; 1 Sam 25:28-32)
- E. Appreciate his desire *for sexual intimacy*.
1. Here is where men and women differ greatly! **(1 Cor 7:3-5)**
 2. If a man fails to have his wife feel that she is loved then this becomes very difficult for her. A wise man *needs to understand his wife!* **(1 Pt 3:7)**
 3. A woman may herself place a lower priority on this and then conclude that the husband does as well. *That is a great mistake!*
 4. Please do not let your marriage become *“a house-keeping relationship!”*