

Fathers' Studies: Husband-Wife Relationships

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 22 OF 52

HONOUR YOUR WIFE

LESSON AIM: To realize the importance of a husband's respect for his wife.

KEY VERSE:

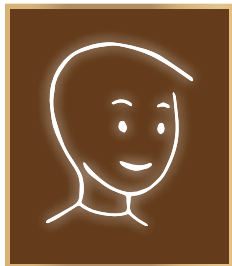
- 1 PETER 3:7** How is a husband to treat his wife? _____

What area of his life can be affected if a husband does not honour his wife? _____
_____.
- PROVERBS 31:28-29** What could a husband say to praise his wife? _____

_____.
- PROVERBS 31:23** This wife feels honoured because her husband is one of the _____
of his people.
- 2 KINGS 4:22-24** This husband honoured his wife by _____ her decision.

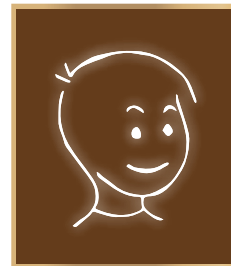
PERSONAL NOTES:

For You To Do



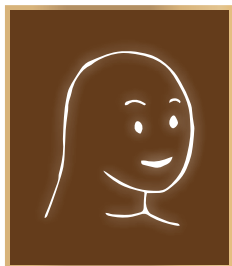
By Yourself

Write a poem or make a list about your wife's good qualities and give it to her.



With Your Children

Encourage them to thank their mother for what she does for them and to praise her.



With Your Wife

Praise your wife in front of the children.

HONOUR YOUR WIFE

LESSON 22 OF 52

A husband's position as head of the household should be used to encourage his wife, praise her, and support her. He should help her to become the kind of person she wants to be. Here are some ways you can fulfill the Bible command to honour your wife.

DEVELOP HER DREAMS Ask your wife what she wants to accomplish in life. What places would she like to visit? Are there new skills she wants to learn? Are there things in the house she would like changed? What would she like you to buy for her? Discuss her dreams and decide how you can fulfill them.

LITTLE LOVE EXPRESSIONS Bring her some flowers you noticed along the road. Give her a card with some tender thoughts on it. Change the baby's diapers. Wash the dishes every Sunday dinner. Little expressions of love will work wonders.

LISTEN TO HER Listening is more than hearing the words she says. It includes that, but it is also hearing the messages behind the words and the messages which do not use words. It is knowing when she is hurt and needs special attention. It is knowing when she is pleased with an accomplishment and when you should praise her. Listening is being aware of the real messages that are coming from your wife, whether by words or by actions.

ENCOURAGE BY PRAISE Praise your wife in different ways. Tell her, "You're the best...", "That was great...", "Only you can...", "Thank you for...", "I appreciate the way you..." Praise her in front of your children and friends. Save the most meaningful words for when you are alone together.

STRENGTHEN YOUR SWEETHEART There is a saying, "Behind every great man there stands a great woman." This means that many men have achieved success in life because of the faithfulness and support of their wives. The reverse should also be true: "Behind a great wife stands a great husband." A husband's position as head of the household should be used to help his wife become a better person. His leadership role carries with it the responsibility and privilege to "strengthen his sweetheart".

PROVERBS 16:24,15:23

A GOOD WIFE IS THE PRIDE AND JOY OF HER HUSBAND. (PROVERBS 12:4)

Honour your wife's dreams of:

- places
- skills
- things

Little expressions of love work wonders.

Hear the messages that come without words.

Praise her. Thank her.

Behind a great wife stands a great husband.

WINDOW TO LIFE

One time a woman and her husband came to see their pastor. The woman said she felt depressed. It seemed that nothing she did pleased her husband. She felt worthless and unimportant. Her husband never thanked her for anything she did in the home.

The pastor asked her husband to come back later and see him alone. When the husband came, the pastor showed him the need of thanking his wife for her daily household jobs such as cooking meals, washing laundry, and cleaning. "Give her the fruit of her hands; and let her works praise her in the gates." (Proverbs 31:31).

When the husband tried this at home, his wife began to feel much more cheerful and confident because he expressed his appreciation for her.

