

WHAT I WANT FOR MY SONS (AND SONS-IN-LAW) IN RESPECT TO A GOOD WIFE

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July 24, 2013

This is the logical sequel to the paper I wrote on being good husbands. I thought it necessary, since I explained my expectations for sons, that I should do the same for daughters. One should read that paper along with this one.

One should also refer to my paper written on the Biblical Reasons for Marriage as found here: <http://historicbaptist.org/pastorsdocs/10%20BIBLICAL%20REASONS%20FOR%20MARRIAGE.pdf>

In that paper I show the ten reasons that God purposed for marriage. This is not a paper to encourage people to marry, but rather, if a person is considering marriage, he or she should know what God says are the reasons for marriage. If a person does not intend to fulfill these reasons, he or she should seriously consider not marrying.

I also know that God says marriage is honorable in all (Hebrews 13:4). God will judge adulterers and whoremongers. Fornication is still a sin. And if a couple is fornicating, such sinful behavior should stop until they marry. I have seen in my experience couples with children who have never married. But they intend to stay together. They may be lost. But regardless of the condition of their soul, in such cases they should marry. They will likely have trouble in the flesh (1 Corinthians 7:28). The New Testament says that in order to avoid fornication, that couple should marry (1 Corinthians 7:2).

Additionally, the New Testament teaches a believer should never marry an unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:39; 2 Corinthians 6:7). At the same time, if a believer is *already* married to an unbeliever, they should remain married (1 Corinthians 7:10-17), for there is hope the lost partner will be saved.

Considering the ten biblical reasons for marriage are fulfilled, here are a few important things I would expect of my daughters and daughters-in law in respect to their relationship with their husbands (my sons and sons-in-law):

1 That the wife be a prudent wife from the Lord. Proverbs 19:14 says a prudent wife is from the LORD. This subject encompasses so much it would be impossible to cover all aspects of it in writing. As I think of that prudent wife from the Lord, I see how the Lord has directed in the finding and marrying of this woman. She is a wife *worth* marrying. Her price is far above rubies (Proverbs 31:10). She is wise in the things of the Lord. She knows and exercises good behavior, she knows how to please her husband, and she knows how to fulfill the scriptural requirements of a wife. She will honor her husband, reverence her husband, obey her husband, and submit herself to her husband. She will follow his leadership. She will not be a busybody (1 Timothy 5:13; 1 Peter 4:15). She will not be a “gossiper.” She will not sow discord (Proverbs 6:19). She will allow her adornment to be the hidden man of the heart (1 Peter 3:1-6).

This prudent wife follows the example of the woman defined in Proverbs 31.

She follows the Lord in her personal walk. She is faithful in prayer and her personal Bible reading. She fears the Lord (Proverbs 31:30).

2 ***That the wife be chaste and a keeper at home*** (Titus 2:4, 5). Notice the word is “at” home, meaning she needs to make the home her priority, spending most of her time caring for the things of the home, in person. She takes responsibility for the execution of the things needed in the house. We see the opposite of this behavior in Proverbs 7:10, 11 when speaking of the strange woman: “her feet abide not in her house.”

The wife that is chaste is clean in mind, soul, and body. She maintains a godly, spiritual, and holy attitude. She would do nothing that is crude, vile, dirty, or ungodly in any way. She understands she is to be an ensample to the other wives.

She raises her children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. She makes sure their needs – whether spiritual, emotional, or physical – are taken care of.

She is a help to her husband (Genesis 2:18). Two have better reward for their labor (Ecclesiastes 4:9). While the man is taking care of the things he should, she takes care of the things she should. She enables her husband to concentrate on those things he is responsible for.

She is diligent to keep her home in nice condition. It is not the man’s responsibility to decorate, clean, cook, launder, etc. He is to work to provide. As long as the husband is diligent to provide and the wife is diligent to keep the house, there will be little friction. However, in contrast, many marriages suffer because either the husband doesn’t work or the wife does not “keep house.”

How nice it is for man to come home from work to his *palace* that has been *maintained* by his wife! With dinner ready, the place neat, the wife looking attractive, and the children well cared for. I think of a dear brother in the Lord who has gone on to glory. His house was always a place of neatness, beauty, and cleanliness. He could not do that job, but his wife was a great example of one taking good care of the home. He never had to be ashamed to bring someone to the house, even without warning. ***He knew the home would be a testimony to the diligence of his wife.***

And in contrast, there are men who after a long day at work have to sometimes cook, clean, do laundry, and care for the kids. They do not have that confidence in that the wife is fulfilling her responsibility. Oh, what a burden on the relationship. This ought not to be.

3 ***That the wife allow the husband to lead the relationship*** (Ephesians 5:23). The husband is the head of the wife, and as such he needs to take that responsibility seriously. However, a wife that will not follow or yield makes it very difficult for a husband to lead rightly. With such resistance from the wife, the husband will soon forsake his responsibility. I have seen this too many times in many relationships.

The wife is to follow and be a help. ***She ought to be content to follow, not contentious to follow!***

The Bible has something to say about the contentious wife in Proverbs 21:19 and 27:15. Instead of being contentious, the wife should have that meek and quiet spirit that the New Testament commands (1 Peter 3:4).

The good wife supports and follows her husband anywhere God leads him. She trusts his judgment, knowing God will deal with him as the leader of the home.

- 4 ***That the wife be a glory to her husband*** (1 Corinthians 11:7). She makes her husband look good. She takes good care of herself and her husband. She is someone he is happy to accompany him for she is a godly testimony and a woman of grace, posture, meekness, and faith.

She should wear godly attire, not the attire of an harlot. She should never look slovenly or unkempt without good reason. She cares for herself favorably in appearance *and* behavior – as a queen to her king, who is the image and glory of God (1 Corinthians 11:7). She looks good in attire, in behavior, and in honoring her husband. She, her children, and her house all look well kept.

She honors and reverences (Ephesians 5:33) her husband, which things do amazing things for his confidence and self worth.

- 5 ***That the wife do her husband good all the days of her life, and not evil*** (Proverbs 31:12). The wife has an immense impact on the success or defeat of her husband. She can be the encourager and help she needs to be, or she can be the ruin of her husband. Many men live a defeated life because of how they are treated by their wives. Conversely, many men are successful mainly due to the support of their wives. The wife has the key to the success or failure of her husband.

A man develops his personality and matures in spirit if he has a good, godly wife. He has that *confidence* (safe trust in her – Proverbs 31:11) that allows him to be himself, knowing he is loved and appreciated for the man he is. He learns he has an admirer and devotee – a lover of his soul – whom he can rely upon for reinforcement of his own maturation and a support in his personal development in the Lord. Consequently, he will attempt more and achieve more in this life. He will be more diligent to please his wife, to provide for his wife, to take chances for his wife's benefit.

- 6 ***That the wife have a joyous and happy spirit*** (Philippians 4:4). One thing that will always attract a man and keep his interest in her is that she have a good countenance with a joyful spirit. A smile is most attractive, and improves any face, whether it be old or young. That smile, ladies, will win any man anywhere, anytime, anyplace. A woman with a sour face, and sorry disposition, a complaining spirit; will never be truly attractive although she may be fair physically. As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout... (Proverbs 11:22).

No person wants to be around a negative, complaining, unhappy person. But in contrast, the happy, positive attitude is more attractive than any clothing or adorning. A smile does more for a man's heart than a thousand words. A good wife understands this. Woe to a husband who hurts or discourages his wife, removing from her that joyful spirit. For he is hurting himself, and damaging his own future.

- 7 ***That a wife be a wise counselor to her husband*** (1 Samuel 15:33). As Abigail gave good advice to her David, the good wife gives good counsel to her husband. I believe God has supplied in the

wife a kindred spirit to the man, and one who can “balance” off the extremes to which a man has a tendency to run. It has been known for centuries that the woman makes a gentleman out of the brute, wild man.

Through the relationship with his wife, the man learns (or should learn!) grace, love, patience, longsuffering, kindness, courtesy, charity, compassion, and good manners. Yes, the wife many times relies too much on emotion, and the man relies too much on intellect; but together they benefit each other. She provides “the softer side” for his understanding.

The wife, when asked her opinion, should supply it. If a wife never provides an answer to her husband, it will not be long before the husband care not to ask. How can it be that the wife has no comment? Is she not interested in his affairs? God forbid.

The contrast of this grace is found in Jezebel, who provided evil for her husband; or Job’s wife, who counseled him to curse God. This ought not to be. A wife’s counsel to her husband should be that which the Lord directs. But be assured, it is the husband who ultimately will give an account for the decisions of the house, and for this reason he should be careful to seek God first and last. But as married man, I know many times the Lord has used my wife to spare me evil, as he did in the case of Abigail.

As I wrote in point 7 in the paper on *husbands*:

“This is God’s first intent for the wife – that she should labor beside him for God. Oh, the benefit of a helpful, loving wife! She is his help all areas of life. Next to Jesus Christ, she is his best friend, his closest companion, his dearest confidant. His heart safely trusts in her (Proverbs 31:11). She does him good all the days of her life.

Accordingly, the good husband involves his wife in every aspect of his life. She travels with him, she is by his side, and they serve the Lord together. Two are better than one, and the good husband knows this (Ecclesiastes 4:9). The wife is the husband’s companion and the wife of his covenant (Malachi 2:14). She is his help, and the Lord knows we men need help. She should never be neglected, shut up, cast aside, ignored, or separated doing other things. His priorities are her priorities. His desires are her desires. His purpose is her purpose. Together they travel through this short life, growing closer together not further apart. As they love God more, they learn to love each other more. Their marriage is not one of convenience, but one of a covenant before God. God is their helper, God is their guide. God is their God.”

This is a brief essay on what I expect from my daughters. This is what I expect for the wives of my sons. If one is unable or unwilling to do these things, please do not marry. Do yourself and others a favor and wait. May God bless your work as you labor for the Lord Jesus Christ.

The End.