

# 8 ways to Love your Spouse – 365 days a year!

Colossians 3:19; Ephesians 5:25-33



In an excellent article on *The Gospel Coalition* website contributor William Boekestein observes, “When God says, ‘Husbands, love your wives,’ he speaks of the woman as a complex being. He calls every man to love his whole wife just as every man loves his whole self (*Eph. 5:29*). This means that a husband must do all he can to understand his wife’s world.” While this may seem like a tall order for most men, it’s both Biblical and reasonable. A wife is indeed a jewel, a multifaceted diamond. And each facet of what she is should be considered and loved. Otherwise, she has every reason to feel UNloved, and that is indeed tragic (*Proverbs 30:21-13*). What follows is an expansion of and reflection on Boekestein’s helpful (and convicting) insights.

## 1. Men should Love the HEART of their wife with an EMOTIONAL Love.

The Bible uses the word “love” over 350 times. Almost 10% of these times are in the Song of Solomon (which comprises less than 0.5 percent of Scripture). *One thing we learn from this is that a husband should use words to express his love for his wife. “Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away! O my dove...let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely” ([Song 2:10](#))*. This man’s got game! (skill, talent) I know of no woman who wouldn’t love to hear her husband speak to her like that, Vs “The ole ball and chain, the wife, the old lady.” She is EMOTIONAL. Speak to her emotions. Yes, it IS difficult, because men are not that emotions (or so they will tell you, “Don’t be a sissy!”). Men who cannot be emotional have emotional problems! You wife didn’t marry SPOCK!

## 2. Men should Love the MIND of their wife with an INTELLECTUAL Love.

A loving husband graciously convinces his wife that, to him, she is the SECOND most important person in the world. That spot belongs to the LORD alone. But next to the Lord Himself, Does your wife know that you value her above all else? And HOW does she know? And HOW OFTEN does she know? [“ . . . just love to know that I am ANY kind of priority . . .”] Intellectual love also means engaging your wife’s mind. Many men win the hand of their future wife by thoughtful, engaging, conversation. Too many men fail to take this habit into marriage. Ask questions, listen for feeling words... Let your wife express herself emotionally, no matter how awkward or uncomfortable that is for you!

### **3. Men should love the BODY of their wife with a PHYSICAL Love**

At the most basic level, by physical love a husband strives to meet his wife’s physical needs. An able man who consistently chooses not to provide for the physical needs of his wife does not love her. Wives / Mothers often act sacrificially towards their families, to the detriment of their physical well-being. Physical love is also complimentary. Your wife needn’t be a supermodel to receive regular, sincere, compliments. In fact, that “supermodel” idea should not even be hinted at. (compare 2 “body” articles of TGC) Physical love must be exclusive. Taking second & 3<sup>rd</sup> looks at other women or carrying on about their beauty is destructive. Each man must strive to please his own wife ([1 Cor. 7:3,33](#)). Physically, that’s not an option.

### **4. Men should love the SOUL of their wife with a SPIRITUAL love.**

Men tend to be task-oriented. But often we neglect one of our greatest responsibilities; the cultivation of godliness and spirituality in our wives. We need to become comfortable with the phrase, “as for me *and my house*” ([Josh. 24:14-15](#)). Joshua understood that as a covenant head of his home, his choices had a profound impact of those under his care. He must always think of the spiritual good of his dependents.

This means making thoughtful, prayerful, decisions, even if they are unpopular. "We are going to church today even though that woman verbally hurt you last week. We must have [family worship](#) even with our busy schedule." These are expressions of love.

## **5. Men should love the RELATIONSHIPS of their wife with a RELATIONAL love.**

Sometimes, this is a PROTECTIVE love, when the man becomes the "heavy" for the wife (and the children, compare where the kids overnight...). For couples with children, relational love may require a husband to protect his wife from her "closest relatives." You and your wife are the PRIMARY family unit (leaving and cleaving) with your extended family coming AFTER that, and maybe even BEHIND the church family! Be swift and firm to discipline children for disrespecting mom. Resist the urge to verbally demean her in front of the children, or anyone else in public. "Praise in public, chew in private". Give her "time off" when necessary. Outside of the home, develop an interest in her friends and don't see them as "impositions" and "threats". Help her to focus on friends that are best for her.

## **6. Men should Love the HUMANITY of their wife with a REALISTIC Love.**

Be tender in your wife's failures. She needs to know that you love her even if you are saddened by her sin. After all, that's how CHRIST relates to HIS Bride, the CHURCH! Speak as a sinner to a sinner, and as someone who will always be at a different level spiritually than you are [compare contra Krum . . .] Be grateful that she is different than you. Different is not necessarily a bad thing. We all have gaps. We are designed to COMPLEMENT each other. The Principle of "synergy". Wise Husbands know this all too well. A loving husband sees his wife as God's gift to him even if she is not perfect. After all, that's what you are to her!!!

## **7. Men should Love the CALLING of their wife with SUPPORTIVE Love.**

If one of a wife's greatest callings is to be submissive to her husband ([Col. 3:18](#)), a loving husband gives his wife every reason to gladly submit to his loving leadership. And example-wise, Some wives never learn biblical submission because their husbands rarely set a positive example. Some men fight against the council of the church. They speak evil of civil authorities. They complain about their employer's policies. They are the essence of rebellion. Yet they demand full submission from their wives. God says, all men must submit to proper authority ([Rom. 13:1](#)). You can hardly help your wife do this if you aren't doing it yourself.

## **8. Men should Love the MAKER of their wife with a THEOLOGICAL love.**

Ultimately, we are loveless because we love ourselves more than we love God and are dissatisfied with God's provision. This means that the more you love God the better equipped you will be to truly love your wife.

By his matchless grace, God draws us to love him and empowers us to love others. Matthew Henry notes that the epistles which focus most on the glory of divine grace, and the majesty of the Lord Jesus, "are the most particular...in pressing the duties of the several relations." The gospel is the good news that the Son of God "loved me and gave Himself for me" ([Gal. 2:20](#)). Christ loves the whole Christian—heart, mind, body, soul—and every other part. Only as we come to terms with what means it means to be loved apart from our performance but because of God's grace will we be able to obey God's word. *"Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them."*

**A Word about PRAYER, STANDARDS, and GRACE-ENABLED STRIVING .**

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