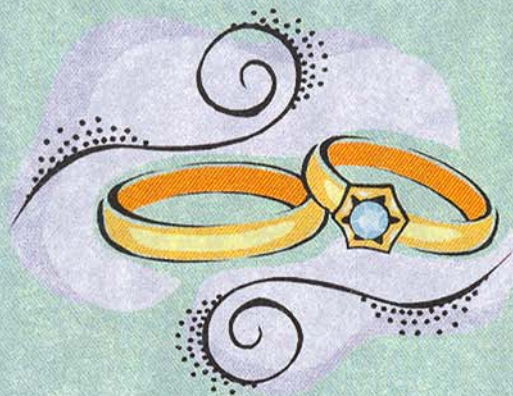




MARRIAGE

“Role & Responsibility of the Wife”



Irma Warr

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.
For the husband is the head of the wife as
Christ is the head of the Church,
His body, of which He is the savior.
Ephesians 5:22-23



Role and Responsibility of the Wife

Irma Warr

- How To Love Your Husband
- Ten Commandments For Wives
- What A Wife Can Do To Make Her Husband Happy And Her Marriage Fulfilling
- How To Keep Love Alive
- Communication

How To Love Your Husband

I. Seven Ways to Love Your Husband

1. Acceptance

To receive favorably, to value or highly esteem

Imitating God's acceptance of you — Romans 15:7

“It is the feeling that my mate is basically very pleased with me and is willing to let me be what God created me to be”

2. Gratitude

Expressing personal appreciation — saying “thank you”

Giving dries up without it — Deut. 28:47, 48

3. Affirmation

Corresponds to praise — Philemon 5 & 7

Keeps things in perspective and builds self-worth Telling your husband what he does right and well

4. Consideration

“Continuous and careful thought regarding the rights and feelings of other”

Jesus' example: John 13, 14 & 15

5. Communication

“It is that verbal and non-verbal means by which two people express their ideas and feelings to one another honestly and in a responsible way”

Love cannot grow without it

Eph. 4:15, 25

6. Physical Affection

Anything from touch to physical union

God's idea — holy — a command

Genesis 1:27

Hebrews 13:4

Genesis 2:24

Genesis 3:16

Developing a positive mental attitude

7. Adaptation

“To fit in, harmonize, alter something so it will meet a need; to be flexible”

Genesis 2:18

Ephesians 5:22, 24

Not a position of inferiority but of equality and fulfillment. When handled properly both husband and wife benefit!

II. Prayer of Acceptance

“Lord, I accept my husband with his strengths and weaknesses as exactly the one you planned for me. Forgive me for being critical of him and causing him to feel, at times, rejected. I will pray each day over the seven ways I can love my husband until I sense he is enjoying my acceptance of him. I realize I cannot do this in my own strength but must rely upon the power of your Holy Spirit.”

Date: _____ Signed _____

III. Inventory

1. List three things I appreciate about my husband:

1)

2)

3)

2. What is one strength I admire in my husband?

3. What is one thing I could do for my husband that would encourage him more than anything else?

Ten Commandments For Wives

1. Honor your own womanhood that your days may be long in the house which your husband provides for you.
2. Expect not your husband to give you as many luxuries as your father has given you after many years of hard labor and economics.
3. Forget not the virtue of good humor, for verily all that a man has will he give for a woman's smile.
4. You shall not nag.
5. You shall coddle your husband, for truly every man loves to be fussed over.
6. Remember that the frank approval of your husband is worth more to you than the sidelong glances of many strangers.
7. Forget not the grace of cleanliness and good dressing.
8. Permit no one to assure you that you are having a hard time of it: neither your mother, nor your sister, nor your maiden aunt, nor any other relatives, for the judge will not hold her guiltless who permits another to disparage her husband.
9. Keep your home with all diligence, for out of it comes the joys of your old age.
10. Commit your ways unto the Lord your God, and your children shall rise up and call you blessed.

What Can A Wife Do To Make Her Husband Happy And Her Marriage Fulfilling?

1. Give your husband top priority — second only to the Lord.

A. A woman's priorities:

1) Your relationship to the Lord

2) Your relationship to your husband

3) Your relationship to your children

4) Your relationship to your home.

5) Your relationship to outside ministry, public relations, activities, etc.

2. Accept him at face value and tell him you accept him; don't try to change him.

3. Admire the manly things about him; don't show indifference, contempt, or ridicule towards his masculine abilities, achievements or ideas.

4. Sympathize with him in his responsibilities and his driving desire for status; don't use other men as shining examples.

5. Be Understanding when he is depressed or discouraged; don't try to solve his difficult problems, but give him the courage to do so himself.

6. Have a trust in him; don't doubt his ability to take care of you.

7. Recognize his superior strength and ability; don't try to excel him in anything which requires masculine ability.

8. Be a Domestic Goddess; don't let the outside world crowd you for time to do your homemaking tasks well.

9. Make him comfortable; don't be a perfectionist in your homemaking.

10. Have character and purpose to your life — and show it; don't destroy your feminine charm by unwholesome thoughts, harshness, criticism, etc.

11. Revere your husband and honor his right to rule you and his children. Acknowledge his God-given role.

12. Praise and compliment him. Look to his better side. Emphasize his good points; don't point out his faults in public, whether he is with you or not. And never quarrel in public nor reveal private matters.

13. Wear soft feminine styles and materials which make you look gentle and tender; don't wear masculine looking styles and materials.

14. Develop a feminine manner by accentuating the difference between you and the men; don't act, look, or think like men.

15. Be feminine around everyone you meet until it becomes a habit; don't ruin the feminine effect by harshness, boldness, criticism, or anything which appears unfeminine.

16. Develop feminine dependency, and need his many care. (Our husbands need to know we need their manly care and protection). Don't be too capable and appear to “kill your own snakes.” (Such a woman makes him feel uncomfortable and like an imitation of a man).

17. Be efficient in your own womanly role; don't be efficient in men's affairs, such as leadership, making major decisions, providing a living, etc.

18. Radiate happiness and shed joy around; don't destroy your feminine charm by a gloomy, too-serious disposition. Be positive and optimistic.

19. Work for the refreshing glow of health. Don't appear unhealthy by wearing drab clothes, neglecting grooming and cleanliness.

20. Reach out for the high level of married happiness by seeking to understand eternal laws upon which it is based; don't be content with anything mediocre in marriage.

21. Regarding Communication:

A. do greet him with gladness when he first comes home (not with all the worst news of the day).

B. Do set aside time for visiting together.

C. Don't let common interests get away.

D. Do be a good listener.

E. Don't fail to still your lips when you should. (Don't be a ceaseless chatterer — an “intruder” or and “over-questioner”)

F. Remember three important words in communication: SPEAK — THE TRUTH — IN LOVE. Ephesians 4:15

22. Regarding Sex:

A. Sex is a sacrament.

B. A smart wife does not ration her man — she does not prescribe time, nor place, nor frequency, nor circumstances, nor manners.

C. She does not think of sex as a prize to be awarded when he has been an especially good boy. Neither does she use it as a bribe to get her own way.

D. Be sexually aggressive some of the time — your husband needs to feel wanted.

“It matters everything to a man if he has a home where he knows he is of inestimable value as a man. The world may deflate him, but he will be restored within his own walls. He may be wounded deeply out there in the marketplace, but at home there is a balm for him. Your husband can stand much more in the rough and tumble of a cut-throat world if you have convinced him that there is a waiting emotional center where he is vitally important. You will study his ups and downs and learn how to read well his soul's condition. The more he feels frustrated in his plans —the day he has been roughly handled by his superiors —when the big contract did not come through — or if in any way you sense that he has been put down somewhere — this is the time when you move in to indicate that your whole soul and body would welcome a closeness to him. Sex is a God ordained means of assuring your partner that he is the most important person in the world right here, right now.” (Letters to Karen”)

“The best protection I know against loose sex is a wife who knows the glories of womanhood and uses her natural charms to the maximum.” (Letters to Karen”)

E. Keep your body as alluring as God meant it to be.

“You're up against the stiffest competition in the marketplace these days. The best way to deal with this is to make it look pale and lusterless compared to what waits with open arms at his own address. There is no road to any other female as attractive to a healthy husband as the road home to his wife if he can share with her, either silently or openly, his innermost feelings.” (*Letters to Karen*)

23. Regarding Finances:

A. Live within the budget. Learn thrift and learn to reduce your wants, if necessary. Make the dollars stretch.

B. Make the very most of all you've got and make the very least of what you can't yet get!

“The most basic principles which you must apply in winning a man's love is to make him feel like a man. You do this by admiring his manly qualities, by making him feel superior

in his role as a man, by filling your role as woman, as mother of his children, and as homemaker and by taking upon yourself certain qualities, such as femininity and dependency — qualities which make him feel manly in contrast.

This consciousness of his manhood is what arouses love in his heart towards you. You become to him the one woman in all the world — the most perfect, the most beautiful, the most ideal woman in existence, regardless of your age or essential beauty.

If you learn the art of making a man feel like a man, you will earn his deepest love.

It is important to remember man's most basic need in marriage — to be admired by his mate. If you, therefore, give him constantly the thing that means most to him — admiration of his manly qualities, achievements and ideals, he will be more apt to return such giving by bestowing love upon you.” (taken from *Fascinating Womanhood*.)

How To Keep Love Alive

Keeping love alive involves continuing to do things you did before you married, but with more depth, gusto, and over a longer period of time.

To be a farmer, you have to cut the grass, water it, weed it, care for it. So with a relationship like this. You get out of it just what you put into it.

1. Develop Spiritual Attractiveness

Obedience to the Word, filling of the Spirit of the God Who is the Giver of love.

2. Develop Physical Attractiveness

The time to be spruced up is when you're together.

3. Verbalize Your Love Daily

It helps the object of the verbalization. It helps YOU to love that person.

4. Physically Express Your Love

It is very important to be physical in your contact. It Shows identification, approval, oneness.

5. Be Forgiving

Forgiveness is the result of our spiritual relationship with God.

6. Avoid comparisons

7. Be Kind and Considerate of Each Other Love is sensitive to the needs of the other person.

8. Be Willing to Adjust

You can't have everything your way. Your partner's way sometimes isn't too bad!

9. Strive to Understand Your Partner

10. Be Patient

Patience shows itself in modified acceptance of another's erratic behavior. Politeness can be an expression of patience.

11. Trust Each Other

12. Become Friends

Do things together; it's important to develop a “together” spirit.

13. Spend Some Time Apart

14. Take Brief Vacations Together

Particularly if you have children in the home.

15. Enjoy Your Children Together

16. Avoid Financial Slavery

17. Keep Your Roles Straight

The Husband is the head. Wives, submit. Husbands, love. Neither the henpecked NOR the henpecker are really happy people.

18. Compliment and Praise Each Other Every Day

Communication

“The heart of marriage is its communication system. It can be said that the success and happiness of any married pair is measurable in terms of the deepening dialogue which characterizes their union.” — Dwight Small

1. Define Communication:

2. On a scale of 1-10 (with 10 being the highest or best), how would you rate the communication between you and your husband? _____

3. In your opinion, what are some causes that hinder, or block, or even cause meaningful communication to cease?

4. Words are not the only communicators. How else do we communicate?

-Suppose a wife greets her husband with “I thought you'd never get home.” The various messages a wife could be giving in this statement and how a husband would interpret the meaning of the words are:

5. What part does attentive listening play in good communications?

6. What does Amos 3:3 teach us about communications?

7. COMMUNICATION AIDS. Under each verse below, list: 1 — The basic principle described in this verse, 2 —The opposite of this principle, and 3 — The problems in communication caused by not following this principle.

A. Ephesians 4:15

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

B. Ephesians 4:26-27

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

C. Ephesians 4:29

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

D. Proverbs 15:1

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

E. Proverbs 18:13

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

F. James 1:19

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

8. In the following verses, what are the problems or barriers to communication in a marriage?

PROBLEMS OR BARRIERS	SCRIPTURES
_____	Luke 6:31
_____	Proverbs 13:10
_____	Ephesians 4:31
_____	Ephesians 4:26
_____	Philippians 2:3, 4
_____	Proverbs 10:8
_____	Esther 4:11
_____	John 3:19, 20
_____	Isaiah 53:6
_____	Jeremiah 17:9

9. If a couple was having problems communicating and asked your help, what advice or counsel would you give them?

10. Where do you fall short in communication?

What one thing will you do this week to improve the situation?

Non-verbal communication can do a great deal to deepen love's dialogue. What things that are important to your husband will you do this week to communicate to him nonverbally "I love you"?