

Needs vs. Wants

Just as our bodies require air, water, and food I believe our souls require two crucial realities to be in place: 1) **the knowledge that we are loved and forgiven by God** and 2) **the sense that we are cooperating with God in accomplishing something eternal.**

These two *needs* must be met in order for a person to be content and fulfilled. I acknowledge, however, that our souls also long for some *non-necessities*. For the majority of us the institution of marriage is God's way of addressing many of these most sought after *wants*. While these desires may be described in slightly different terms, I have discovered through 35 years of ministry that most women's greatest *want* is **protection**. For most men their greatest *want* is to be **respected** by their wife and children.

Eph 5:22-24 NIV

22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 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. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

10 Ways a Wife "Respects" Her Husband

- 1. She accepts him in "as is condition"**
- 2. She thinks and speaks well of him all the time**
- 3. She keeps a clean and orderly home**
- 4. She supports both *his discipline of their children* and *his financial decisions***
- 5. She speaks the truth in love to him on every important issue**
- 6. She does not nag**
- 7. She encourages him by her appearance, her words, and her touch**
- 8. She avoids all forms of manipulation**
- 9. She allows him some time each day to be in his "cave"**
- 10. She prays for him constantly**

Prov 31:10-12 NIV

10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.

11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.

12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

1 Peter 3:7 NIV

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

10 Ways a Man "Protects" His Wife

- 1. He keeps his word**
- 2. He "over-informs" her regarding his activities and whereabouts**
- 3. He defends her from assaults from the kids, parents, and in-laws**
- 4. He thinks and speaks well of her all the time**
- 5. He leads a disciplined life physically, emotionally, and spiritually**
- 6. He always provides for her financially during his life and in the event of his death**
- 7. He cherishes and guards his time with her**
- 8. He gives her his full attention when with her**
- 9. He keeps his eyes and thoughts from wandering to other women**
- 10. He does not flirt**

Num 30:3-8 NIV

3 "When a young woman still living in her father's house makes a vow to the LORD or obligates herself by a pledge 4 and her father hears about her vow or pledge but says nothing to her, then all her vows and every pledge by which she obligated herself will stand. 5 But if her father forbids her when he hears about it, none of her vows or the pledges by which she obligated herself will stand; the LORD will release her because her father has forbidden her. 6 "If she marries after she makes a vow or after her lips utter a rash promise by which she obligates herself 7 and her husband hears about it but says nothing to her, then her vows or the pledges by which she obligated herself will stand. 8 But if her husband forbids her when he hears about it, he nullifies the vow that obligates her or the rash promise by which she obligates herself, and the LORD will release her.

"When a man consistently protects his wife, he nearly assures himself that she will cheerfully submit to his leadership." FMN

