

SHOW RESPECT AND LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Note to the speaker:

Source material for this outline can be found in chapters 3 and 11 of the book *The Secret of Family Happiness*. Do *not*, however, read to the audience directly from the book. Keep your information fresh and up-to-date by the use of additional, more recent material. Open the Bible frequently, and read directly from it as your authority

RESPECT AND LOVE ARE VITAL ASPECTS OF A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE (4 min.)

Almost all of us are concerned about marriage (our own or those of ones we love); we do well to consider how vital respect and love are in a successful marriage

Respect may be demanded, but to come from another's heart, it must be earned

Jesus earned respect as a teacher by his manner of teaching (Mt 7:28, 29)

Let us examine role of husband in connection with respect in marriage

The wife is told to respect her husband; how can the husband merit it? (Eph 5:33)

THE WAYS A HUSBAND EARNS HIS WIFE'S DEEP RESPECT (14 min.)

By exercising proper headship

Examples of loving headship are found in Jehovah's headship over Christ and Christ's headship over the congregation (Mt 11:29; Heb 10:7; *w89* 5/15 11-13)

Husband should follow these examples (Eph 5:25-29, 33)

When the husband is domineering, the wife's submission to him can be a hardship

If husband refuses to take the lead and make needed decisions, the wife's submission is difficult and she may feel forced to take over to get things done

The husband is to be steady and strong in making decisions but should take into consideration the views of his wife

By being a good provider

The husband is to provide materially for his wife (1Ti 5:8)

In providing materially, the man is not to go to extremes and become materialistic, involving his family in that snare (1Ti 6:7-10)

He must balance his providing materially with the more vital need of making spiritual provision for his family (1Ti 6:17-19; *w83* 6/1 18)

By showing his wife honor as to a weaker vessel, the feminine one (1Pe 3:7)

In sexual relations (*w83* 6/1 21)

By maintaining good personal hygiene, or cleanliness

Never treating her as inferior just because she may be physically weaker (Eph 5:28; *w89* 5/15 13-14; *w86* 8/15 16 par. 12)

Manifesting awareness of her emotional makeup and her desire to feel needed, to be talked to, to be remembered, to be told that she is loved (*w89* 7/15 31; *w83* 6/1 20)

But what about the wife? And how does love—which we mentioned as vital—fit in?

THE HUSBAND IS TOLD TO LOVE HIS WIFE, BUT SHE MUST ACT LOVINGLY IF HE IS TO DO THIS FROM HIS HEART (8 min.)

She should be a helper, supporting her husband in his decisions

Wife ought to train herself to be capable in performing her wifely duties (Pr 31:27)

She should care for her personal appearance, yet remember that the most important adornment is a fine disposition (Pr 31:20, 26, 30)

The wife, like the husband, is to conduct herself with fairness and consideration in sexual matters (Heb 13:4; *w86* 8/15 16 par. 13; *w81* 8/15 13-15)

PITFALLS THE WIFE SHOULD AVOID IF SHE IS TO BE LOVED (6 min.)

The wife who resorts to weeping to get her way loses her husband's respect (Jg 14:16, 17)

A nagging wife jeopardizes her marriage and kills love (Jg 16:16)

The wife who wants her husband to talk to her should not inhibit his doing so by her conversational habits (Ec 3:7)

A wife who has an unbelieving husband must not preach excessively to him but let her conduct recommend the Christian way (Pr 16:24; 25:11; *w90* 8/15 23; *w90* 2/15 26-7)

THE LOVE THAT IS A PERFECT BOND OF UNION IN MARRIAGE (11 min.)

The Bible provides an inspired definition of love (1Co 13:4-8)

Make love grow

Love, like a muscle, is strengthened by use

Increase love by sharing it

Serving your mate makes love grow

With the conduct outlined above, love can grow whether your mate is a Christian believer or not

KEEP ON INCREASING RESPECT AND LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE (2 min.)

Husbands, show love and respect in your marriage (1Pe 3:8, 9)

Do not feel that it is enough just to bring home your wages

Continue to deepen your appreciation for your wife

Try to overlook her faults and forgive her weaknesses (Col 3:12-14)

Wives, cultivate deep respect for your husband

Be a true complement to him, supporting him and helping him with his load

Cultivate appreciation for him, and work to make him happy

In this way, you and the entire family will be happy (Ac 20:35)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read. Source material in parentheses need not be mentioned)