Ephesians 5:21-33 | A Word to the Wives

1) What is society's (general) view of husband and wife roles?

   a) What is the God-given role of a wife?

   b) What is the God-given role of a husband?

   c) Do the God-ordained husband / wife roles imply that women are inferior to men?

   d) Is the husband king and the wife a servant?

2) What is submission?

   a) How are we (Christians) to submit to each other?

   b) How is a wife to submit to her husband?

   c) Why are wives "singled out" and called to submit to their husbands?

   d) Is it okay for a wife not to submit if her husband is unwise or spiritually immature?

   e) Should a wife submit if her husband is asking her to sin?

3) What is respect?

   a) Is it a feeling or a doing?

   b) Is it okay for a wife not to respect her husband if he isn't loving her as Christ loves the Church?

   c) Why is it important for a wife to respect her husband?

WAYS A WIFE MAY EXPRESS LOVE TO HER HUSBAND

(How to Convince Your Husband That You Love Him)

Evaluate the way you express love to your husband. Go over the list and circle the ways you are neglecting. Ask your husband to go over the list and put a check mark in front of the ways he would like you to express love. Ask him to add other things to the list.

You may express love to your husband by:

1. Greeting him at the door when he comes home with a smile, a hug, a kiss, and an, "Am I glad to see you. I really missed you today."
2. Having a cup of coffee or tea ready for him when he comes home.
3. Giving him a lingering kiss.
4. Letting him know you like to be with him and making arrangements so that you can spend time with him without giving the impression that you really should or would rather be doing something else.
5. Being willing to talk to him about his concerns and not belittling him for having these concerns.
6. Supporting him and cooperating with him enthusiastically and positively when he has made a decision.
7. Teasing and flirting with him.
8. Seeking to arouse him and sometimes being the aggressor or leader in sex relations.
9. Asking him to have sex relations more than he would expect you to.
10. Really letting yourself go when having sexual relations.
11. Caressing him.
12. Looking at him with an adoring expression.
13. Sitting close to him.
14. Holding his hand.
15. Rubbing his back or. . . .
16. Wearing his favorite nightgown or dress or perfume or. . . .
17. Expressing your love in words or notes.
18. Letting him know how much you appreciate him and what you appreciate about him. Do this often and for things that are sometimes taken for granted. Pretend you are trying to convince him you think he is great and very important to you.
19. Frequently fulfilling his wishes and desires as well as the specific requests he makes of you. Try to anticipate what he might desire or wish and surprise him by doing it before he asks.
20. Playing with him (tennis, golf, party games, etc.); sharing his hobbies and
21. Enthusiastically cooperating with him and sharing with him in devotions and prayer; seeking to set a good example to the children concerning their attitude toward devotions and prayer.
22. Maintaining your own spiritual life through regular Bible study and prayer.
23. Handling your affairs decently and in order; structuring your time and using it wisely.
24. Being willing to face and solve problems even if it requires discomfort, change, and much effort.
25. Fulfilling your responsibilities.
26. Asking him for his advice and frequently following it.
27. Being ready to leave at the appointed time.
28. Standing with him and supporting him in his attempts to raise your children for God.
29. Thanking him in creative ways for his attempts to please you.
30. Asking for forgiveness and saying, "I was wrong and will try to change."
31. Actually changing where you should.
32. Working with him on his projects or. . . .
33. Reading the literature he asks you to read and sharing your insights.
34. Letting him know when he has tough decisions to make (and even when they are not so tough) that you really believe he will choose the right thing and that you will wholeheartedly support him in whatever decision he makes, provided the decision does not violate clearly revealed biblical principle; being his best cheerleader and fan club.
35. Buying gifts for him.
36. Watching football or other sporting events with him and trying to really manifest an interest.
37. Keeping the house neat and clean.
38. Cooking creatively and faithfully.
39. Having devotions with the children when he is not able to be there.
40. Maintaining his disciplinary rules when he is not present.
41. Being appreciative and cooperative when he holds you, caresses or kisses you.
42. Lovingly giving him your input when you think he is in error.
43. Offering constructive suggestions when you think he could improve or become more productive. Don't push or preach or do this in such a way that you belittle him, but seek positive and non-threatening ways to help him become more fully the man God wants him to be.
44. Running errands gladly.
45. Seeking to complete, not compete with, him; being the best member of his team and seeking to convince him that you are just that.
46. Being lovingly honest with him—no back door messages—no withholding of truth that will hinder your relationship or future trust and closeness.

tion on what he does or says until you have evidence that proves the contrary.

48. Pampering him and making a fuss over him.
49. Being happy and cheerful.
50. Refusing to nag.
51. Gently brushing a leg under the table.
52. Having candlelight and music at dinner.
53. Indicating you want to be alone with him and talk or just lie in each other's arms.
54. Giving an "I promise you" wink.
55. Going for a walk with him.
56. Letting him know you feel lonely when he is out of town or away from you for a period of time.
57. Relating what happened to you during your day.
58. Sharing your fears, concerns, joys, failures, etc.
59. Seeking to support your ideas with biblical insights and good reasons.
60. Refusing to "cop out" or withdraw and attack or exaggerate or blameshift when he seeks to make constructive suggestions or discuss problems.
61. Giving him your undivided attention when he wants to talk.
62. Discussing the meaning of certain Bible passages or discussing how to improve your marriage or home or children or child raising efforts, etc.
63. Cheerfully staying up past your bedtime to resolve a disagreement or problem.
64. Holding him close while expressing genuine concern and tangible and vocal love when he is hurt, discouraged, weary, or burdened.
65. Being eager to share a good joke or some other interesting information you have learned.
66. Working in the yard or painting a room together or washing the car.
67. Planning vacations or trips together.
68. Wanting to keep your family memorabilia, newspaper clippings, church releases, etc., that have to do with your family.
69. Bragging to others about him and his accomplishments and how good a husband he is.
70. Joining with him in a team ministry at the church.
71. Doing a Bible study or Bible research together.
72. Doing a good job in bookkeeping about family finances.
73. Helping prepare the income tax report.
74. Keeping touch through letters with your family and friends.
75. Keeping yourself attractive and clean.
76. Inviting other people in for dinner or fellowship.
77. Developing and using the spiritual gifts God has given you.
78. Asking him to pray with you about something.
79. Expressing how much you love the children and being the children's cheer-
80. Managing to stay within the family budget and even saving some for special surprises.
81. Being excited about sharing the gospel with others or about answered prayer or about helping other people.
82. Making a list for him of things that need to be done around the house.
83. Being satisfied with your present standard of living or furniture or equipment when he can provide no more.
84. Not making nostalgic comments about your father's way of providing, etc., which may seem to imply that you think your father was a much better man than your husband.
85. Acknowledging that there are some specific areas or ways in which you need to improve.
86. Taking care of his clothes so that he is always dressed well.
87. Appreciating and helping his mother and father and relatives.
88. Refusing to disagree with him in the presence of others.
89. Cooperating with him in establishing family goals and procedures and then in fulfilling them.
90. Being silly and unconventional in your lovemaking at times.
91. Telling him before he asks you that you think he has done a good job, if he has done a good job. Don't be afraid of repeating yourself in commending him for what he is or does.
92. Being available and eager to fulfill his desires wherever and whenever it is proper and possible.
93. Beginning each day with cheerfulness and tangible expressions of affection.
94. Letting the children know that you and your husband are in agreement; communicating to your children when your husband can hear (and when he cannot) how wonderful he is.