

ENCORE | Eph. 5:21-33: A Word to the Husbands

- 1) What is the husband's role in the home?

- 2) What does a husband's role look like lived out?
 - a) Is a husband like a king?
 - b) Is he like a president?
 - c) Does a husband's role carry any added responsibility?
 - d) Who is our leadership model (v. 25)?
 - e) What did His example look like lived out?
 - f) Husbands, are you ready to follow Christ's example?

- 3) What does it mean to be a spiritual *leader*?

- 4) Colossians 3:19 tells us one stumbling block to husbands fulfilling their God given role.
 - a) What is the stumbling block?
 - b) How can we avoid bitterness?

- 5) Submission can be an area of contention today. Discuss the following questions:
 - a) Who is verse 21 addressed to?
 - b) Who is verse 22 addressed to?
 - c) How do verses 21 and 22 work together?
 - d) Discuss some reasons a woman might struggle with husband/wife roles or the principal of submission.

- 6) How can a husband help his wife to understand and fulfill her role?

- 7) What steps do you need to take this week to fulfill your God-given role?

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. Caring for 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 blame shift 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.

Looking Ahead | Ephesians 6:1-4: The Biblical Family

Monday (v. 1) – Children, obey your parents. Why should you obey your parents? Because it is right. Okay, but why is it right? Is it right because “I say so”? Is it right because your parents are bigger and stronger than you? (What happens when you become bigger or stronger than your parents?) Is it right because they pay the bills? Is it right because society thinks it is best? Is it right because it is best for you? Is it right because somebody has to be in charge? Guess what, it is right because it is God’s created order, God has placed your parents in authority over you. Children, obey your parents; it is a command from God. Now, should you choose to disobey your parents, who else are you being disobedient to?

■ Daily Bible Reading: Job 28-29; Matt. 13:1-30

Tuesday (v. 2-3) – Children, obedience is not optional; it is a command from the Lord. Notice that obedience is called “honor” in this verse. What does it mean to “honor your parents”? Think about some ways you might be able to show honor to your parents. Notice also Paul takes us to one of the Ten Commandments and then tells us this command is “the first command with promise.” What are the elements of the promise? Think about the times you have been disobedient to your parents; has it gone “well with you”?

■ Daily Bible Reading: Job 30-31; Matt. 13:31-58

Wednesday (v. 4) – “Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath.” This gives the idea of perpetual nagging which causes a deep-seated anger which will eventually “boil over” in “wrath” or an angry outburst. Fathers (okay, mothers too), think about the way you talk to your children; would you call it encouraging or discouraging? Notice the parallel passage from Colossians 3:21: “Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become *discouraged*.” How many children have gone through life feeling like nothing they ever did would please their parents? In parenting you must keep the goal in mind (we will see this Thursday and Friday), but we must also pay close attention to the *how*. Today the how comes to us in the form of a negative: Do not provoke! Think about some ways you can train (yes, even discipline) your children without provoking or discouraging them.

■ Daily Bible Reading: Job 32-33; Matt. 14:1-21

Thursday (Col. 3:20) – “Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.” Honor your father and mother is the first commandment with promise, “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” But notice a better motivation for obedience: “This is well pleasing to the Lord.” Parenting (and being parented) is, like every other issue in life, a heart issue. Many children obey their parents but they do so grudgingly; many children obey their parents but they do so out of fear; some fear punishment or consequences but some even fear their parents will love them less if they disobey. This leads to a character that obeys at home but breaks out of the mold when the warden is no longer present. To be continued Thursday...

■ Daily Bible Reading: Job 34-35; Matt. 14:22-36

Friday (v. 4) – Parenting is a heart issue. So many children have learned obedience out of fear or Hedonistic thinking (avoiding pain or punishment). This has led them to obey at home, usually grudgingly, then “go off the deep end” when their parents are not around. Wrong motivations are also the reasons so many children struggle with the issues of obedience and authority at all. “Obey!” “Why?” “Because I said so!” Parenting is never about outward obedience or rule keeping. Wow, what else is it about then? “I just want my kids to behave.” Then I am afraid you have missed God’s mark for you. God wants your child’s heart (just like He only wants your heart). If we teach our kids to “obey the rules” but never *train them to follow the Lord*, we have failed them. Now I understand that the children of most of the parents at Blair Ridge have already grown up so I want to say a few things to you: 1) Do not “beat yourself up” over *any* past failures or mistakes (Phil. 3:13), remember God’s grace and sovereignty 2) you have a wealth of experience and knowledge to impart to the next generation(s), even to your own children and grandchildren. Take the opportunities God gives you to help others bring their children up in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

■ Daily Bible Reading: Job 36-37; Matt. 15:1-20

Saturday (Prov. 22:6) – “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Notice that this verse is from the Book of Proverbs and not from the Book of Promises. That means some parents will do everything God is calling them to do as parents but their children will still stray. Why is that? Romans 3 tells us why: We have a nature that is bent on disobedience; it is impossible to make anyone believe, obey or change. You can only do what God calls you to do as a loving parent. Now think about Proverbs 22:6 in the negative; we might say, “Don’t train up a child, and you can be all but certain he will go his own way.” Ephesians 6 tells us that as parents we have a calling and stewardship from God to train our children to love and follow Him.

■ Daily Bible Reading: Job 38-40; Matt. 15:21-39