

**“What’s A Wife To Do, Part 2”**  
**Ephesians 5:33**  
**Sermon Series: “Jesus And My Marriage”**

**Main Idea: God commands wives to respect their husbands.**

What does this command mean and how do we live it out? Why does God give these particular commands to husbands and wives? Of course, we do need to remember that we are to love and respect everyone so there must be particular reasons for the particular emphasis in this verse.

- 1. The command is ultimately based on the analogy of Christ and the church and reflects the fact that husbands are to love their wives like Christ loves the church, and wives are to respect their husbands like the church is to respect Jesus.**
- 2. However, God designed us and knows what is best for us so He gives these commands because men tend to thrive on respect and women tend to thrive on love.** This is vital for understanding your mate and your marriage.
- 3. Respect is both an attitude and an action.** You can show him respect even if you don’t feel respect at a given moment just like he can show you love even if he doesn’t feel love at a given moment. We should strive to make it as easy to love and respect as possible, but that is not what this command is based on.
- 4. Obedience to the command for wives to respect their husbands is not based on his performance as a husband.** Talk about the caveat of the abuse situations. When wives say they can’t respect their husbands because they’re not acting respectably, does that mean they shouldn’t love their wives when they don’t act lovable?

**How To Show Respect To Your Husband (based on Shaunti Feldhahn’s book, “For Women Only”**

**1. Why is respect and affirmation so important to a man?** Mrs. Feldhahn writes, “Finally, the lightbulb came on: If a man feels disrespected, he is going to feel unloved. And what that translates to is this: If you want to love you man in the way he needs to be loved, then you need to ensure that he feels your respect most of all.” A marriage counselor said to her, “Affirmation is everything. When a man is affirmed, he can conquer the world. When he’s not, he is sapped of his confidence and even his feeling of

manhood. And believe me, he will, consciously or unconsciously, seek out places where he receives affirmation.”

**A. Insecurity**

**B. Difficulty with openness** (“The only time a guy’s guard is completely down is with the woman he loves. So she can pierce his heart like no one else can.”)

**2. Affirmation**

**A. Verbally**

**B. Sexually** (She writes, “For your husband, sex is more than just a physical need. Lack of sex is as emotionally serious to him as, say, his sudden silence would be to you, were he simply to stop communicating with you. Making love with you assures him that you find him desirable, salves a deep sense of loneliness, and gives him the strength and well-being necessary to face the world with confidence. And, of course, sex also makes him feel loved. At the most basic level, your man wants to be wanted.”)

**C. In difficult times**

**3. Respect**

**A. His judgment**

**B. His abilities**

**C. In communication**

**D. In public**

**E. In assumptions**

**Conclusion:** I want to conclude by briefly circling back to where we started, which is verses 15-21 of chapter 5, and reminding us of two things that marriage won’t work without, **which are wisdom and being filled with the Holy Spirit.**

**1. Practically, what steps of wisdom do you need to take for your marriage to flourish and honor Jesus? What do you (not your spouse) need to change?** Are you leading and loving, men? Ladies, are you submitting and respecting? What about the different practical areas we talked about? Do you need to seek some wise counsel?

**2. Spiritually, are you living and trying to do marriage in your own strength or the power of the Holy Spirit?**

**A. Receive the Spirit through salvation (1:13, 2:8-9) [share the gospel and call for a response].** Marriage reveals our sinfulness and our need for a Savior. Ephesians 1:13 says,

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”

**B. Be filled with the Holy Spirit (5:18).**

