

HOW TO SHOW RESPECT WHEN YOUR HUSBAND IS NOT RESPECTABLE

By Rachel Burchfield

Ephesians 5:33 I Corinthians 13:4-7 I Peter 3:1-2

Many Christians believe the Bible until it instructs them to do something unpleasant or unpopular. This is especially true when God's plan for marriage is taught. Yeah, I get it. Unless you have accepted the Scriptures as your final authority, the romantic "I DO" at the altar quickly becomes an "I DON'T" in the home.

Ecclesiastes 4:12, which states, "A *threefold cord is not quickly broken*," reveals the secret to a successful marriage involves God, a husband, and a wife.

This article is for wives. Disappointed and disillusioned wives. Today's culture says, "I'll respect him when he finally does something respectable." This is the polar opposite of God's ways. If you want God's results of a love-filled marriage, you gotta do it God's way. *As for God, His way is perfect. Ps. 18:30*

Don't fall into the trap of, "That's not fair!" or "What about him?" Dear one, try to remember why you married him. Has your shining knight fallen off his horse? Perhaps you can help him get back in the saddle.

"... and let the wife see that she respects her husband." Eph. 5:33

*"...respects [reverences, *notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, esteems, defers to him, praises him, loves him, admires him exceedingly] Eph. 5:33 Ampc (*ouch!)*

Men are hard-wired for respect and will often be motivated to change when the cycle of disrespect is interrupted. Ultimately, this is not about your husband's behavior. It's about you making a choice to recognize and respect God's divine order. It's not you being a doormat, but a welcome mat to the Holy Spirit to do a deep work in you first. It's vital to figure out this respect issue because your children are enrolled at "Marriage University" while watching your daily responses.

Signs Of Disrespect

*Sarcasm
Complaining
Correcting
Emotional outbursts
Comparing them to other men
Humiliating them in public
Talking about them behind their back*

Signs of Respect

*Thank him daily for something.
Tell your family and kids how wonderful he is.
Text him first for advice - not your mom or BFF
Wait to disagree privately, not in front of the kids.
Don't laugh at his dreams. Believe him. Help him.
Keep your sexual life private. Initiate more often.
Apologize when you are disrespectful.*

If submission to your husband is hard, you're probably submitting to the wrong man. Elisabeth Elliot

Pray for your husband. *Ask the Holy Spirit to help you look beyond his behavior. Learn to respond to Jesus, not react to your man. Look to Jesus, the Lover of Your Soul, to meet your emotional needs and release your (flawed) man from that burden temporarily. Try your best to honor Jesus' plan for marriage and watch His great love change you, your husband, and your marriage.

**This does not apply if there is abuse of any type. Reach out to a trusted counselor and get an exit plan to safety.*