



Secrets to a Successful Marriage

Principle number Fourteen

Husbands love your wives

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is:

Ephesians 5:25-33 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

God is giving me instructions for my marriage. God is commanding me to love my wife and to give myself for her. Jesus loved you so much he gave his life for you. In the same way, we are to love our wives so much that we give our life for her. When a husband loves his wife and centers his life around her, it causes great strength and security to the wife. When a husband puts his job, friends, parents, himself or anything else before his wife it causes her to be insecure, and that means problems. Remember the order of authority. Man is woman's covering. He protects and provides for his wife. The wife is a direct reflection of the husband. If the wife is unhappy, depressed and miserable it is a direct reflection of the husband. For the wife is the husband's glory. When the wife is properly loved by the husband she will shine with great security and be very confident in her life. If your wife is not shining with happiness and joy you need to seek the Lord and find out what you can do to help her or what changes you need to make in your life. My love for my wife is unconditional. It is not based on how she treats me. It is not based on romantic feelings, for feelings come and go. I love my wife because I choose to obey God. I love her because I choose to love her. I am commanded to wash her in the word of God. Just as Christ loves me and washes me with his acceptance, not counting my sins against me, so I am to love my wife. I am to live a godly life. I am to set a moral code of ethics for my house. It is my responsibility to pray and to ensure my family is hearing the word of God. I am responsible to teach my wife and my children God's principles and laws. I am commanded by God to cherish and nourish my wife. I will give my life for her. I will not demand that she obey me and serve me, but I will treat her with respect and honor. Just as a man needs to be respected to give him

a sense of worth and value, a woman needs to be loved and placed as number one in her husband's eyes to give her a sense of worth and value.

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be bitter toward them.

The only way not to become bitter toward your wife is to forgive her. When she dishonors you, when she disappoints you, when she hurts you, forgive her. If you do not forgive her, you will begin to resent her and you will become bitter toward her. When you become bitter, you become blind. You can no longer see God's principles; all you can see is yourself. Your thoughts center on you and how bad you have it. You cannot give your life for your wife when you are bitter. For your sake, for your wife's sake, for your family's sake and for Jesus' sake, forgive her.

Ephesians 5:21 Submitting to one another in the fear of God.

God has given each spouse instruction in their marriage. Focus on your responsibility. You obey these principles out of the fear of God. Wives submit to and reverence your husband out of a reverence for God. You do it out of your love for your heavenly Father, because you believe in and trust His word. Husbands you love, honor, and cherish your wife, not because she is the perfect wife, but because you fear God. You love and reverence your God. You believe His word and you are a doer of it and not a hearer only (*James 1:22*).

A Time to Reflect

1. Husband, are you laying your life down for your wife?
2. Is your wife happy and successful or is she miserable and angry?
3. What can you do to show your wife she is number one in your life?
4. What can you do to wash your wife with praise and acceptance?
5. If you are bitter toward your wife will you forgive her?