

## Love Toward A Wife

This lesson is designed to get men thinking about areas they may need to work on when it comes to treating their wives properly. This is an area men will always have to work upon. We want our wives to be submissive and to have confidence in us, but many times we don't understand "how" to bring this about. It's not about telling her to get in line, but *enabling* her to be able to submit.

**Icebreaker:** What is something that you really appreciate that your wife does for you that makes up for one of your shortcomings? In other words, what is something that she does well that you don't do so well?

### Proper Regard For Our Wives

Ephesians 5:21 ¶ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour.

24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Col 3:18 ¶ Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

1 Peter 3:1¶ Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behaviour of their wives,  
2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

How do the scriptures above work together? Given these Scriptures work in harmony together, what does "submit" mean to you? The church submits to Christ. What does that look like?

### Proper Value of Our Wives

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

29 After all, no-one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—

30 for we are members of his body.

31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Discuss for a few minutes how Christ loves on his church. After that, talk about how that compares to loving our wives as we love our selves. Why do you think many women today do not respect their husbands?

**Situational Question:** What does you wife respond positively to? What positive thing is it that you do that makes her *want* to be submissive?

**Experience Question:** What is it that you do that brings out the questions like: “You never do \_\_\_\_” or “You’re always doing \_\_\_\_\_ and I don’t like it!”?

**Application Question:** What is one way that you can encourage your wife and make her feel valued *today*?

Prayer for these needs, and ministry as needed.

## Proper Regard For Our Wives

Read the following Scriptures aloud in your group. Take FIVE MINUTES to discuss it and *then* answer the questions:

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## Ten Questions Every Husband Should Ask His Wife Annually

by Tom Elliff

Every year, Tom and Jeannie Elliff get away for a private retreat. Once, while sharing a meal in an intimate restaurant, Tom asked Jeannie the following questions — he wanted to listen to his wife's words and hear from her heart.

These ten questions have become an annual exercise as Tom seeks to follow the apostle Peter's exhortation: You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman, and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered. -- 1 Peter 3:7 (NASB)

1. What could I do to make you feel more loved?
2. What could I do to make you feel more respected?
3. What could I do to make you feel more understood?
4. What could I do to make you more secure?
5. What can I do to make you feel more confident in our future direction?
6. What attribute would you like me to develop?
7. What attribute would you like me to help you develop?
8. What achievement in my life would bring you greatest joy?
9. What would indicate to you that I really desire to be more Christ like?
10. What mutual goal would you like to see us accomplish?

Optional - Have I overlooked any question you would like for me to ask?

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