

A Wife's Test Of Love

Ladies, it is now your turn to answer a few questions.

Answer yes or no in, in the last month did you do the following?

Credit yourself with the maximum of 10 points for each answer yes. If you don't attain 100 points you should continue to read this article.

- 1 Prepare a favourite meal or dessert for your husband.
Meals for special occasions or when having guests don't count.
- 2 Slip a note in his lunchbox or in his socks drawer telling your husband how you admire and appreciate him.
- 3 Make an effort to improve your appearance before your husband returns from work.
- 4 Praise him in front of the children or others.
- 5 List all your husband's strong points and thank God for them all.
- 6 Tell your husband that you love him in a way that he knows it is deeply meant.
- 7 Ask your husband for advice and then follow it.
- 8 Buy him a little gift or make something for him for no special reason.
- 9 Ask your husband to pray for you or with you about a certain problem.
- 10 Respond to him in faith without complaining, even when you disagreed with his approach to a problem.

How did you rate?

In the beginning

When God created Adam He knew he would need a wife. So God created a companion for him, a friend to inspire and encourage and help him. One to share the highs and the lows of life, and to begin with him the human family on earth.

God made it quite clear this was a natural union, but a divine institution.

Husbands and wives are bound to each other as long as they both live.

Romans 7:2 [NIV] *“For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage.”*

1 Corinthians 7:39 [NIV] *“A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.”*

Therefore whatever excuse husbands or wives might use to justify not loving and respecting their mates will **not** stand up before God.

One third of one of the “*principles of living*” chapters in the Christian Bible, the Handbook For Life, is dedicated to the husband/wife relationships.

Read Ephesians chapter five.

In these 12 verses God emphasizes one point to husbands to “*love your wife.*”

Only three of those 12 verses are addressed to wives, again God emphasizes one point “*wives, submit yourselves to your husbands.*”

Why is this? What does submission have to do with love?

Have you noticed what exhortation to Christians in general precedes this instruction to wives.

It is a command for all Christians to submit themselves one to another in the fear of God [**Ephesians 5:21**].

So it isn't just wives who must learn to submit in God's church, is it?

What does this submission to authority and others have to do with love?

Everything!

Jesus said to those who love Him, “*keep my commandments.*” [**John 14:15**]

The Holy Spirit inspired the apostle Paul to say “*love is the fulfilling of the law of God [Christ]*” [**Romans 13:10**].

God is not asking the impossible. He requires **all** Christians to step out in faith and to submit to one another.

This is not to be done half-heartedly, but as in submission to God Himself [**Colossians 3:23-24**].

For truly, in Christian submission to Jesus Christ, we not only serve Him, but we love Him.

Women of God's church in Christian submission to your husband you show you love them.

Characteristics of love

What then are the qualities of a loving wife?

A loving wife is appreciative

A woman who frequently counts her blessings finds it easier to show her husband how much she appreciates his efforts to provide for and lead the family.

God has a lot to say about appreciating what we have in His Handbook For Life, the Christian Bible.

Tell your mate you appreciate him often. Be specific in your praise.

Respectful

This is a command from God that is included in the marriage ceremony. A loving wife respects the position and authority that God delegates to her husband in the family.

She knows in doing so she not only shows love to her mate but honour and respect towards God.

Always speak and answer your husband with respect, even if you are expressing a difference of opinion.

Then family discussions won't turn into family fights. There is a way to disagree and not be disagreeable.

Loyal

A husband should be able to totally depend upon his wife's loyalty. Can your husband depend upon you never to reveal a confidence he has shared with you?

What about criticising him to your friends or relatives?

Be careful that all your words and actions show loyalty to your husband.

Encouraging

Everyone needs encouragement once in a while and who better knows when a man needs a boost than his wife. Be sensitive to your husband's emotional needs. Learn to read your mate's moods.

Ask him if he may not be feeling well or if something is bothering him when it is apparent he is discouraged.

A sympathetic ear at the right time and place works wonders towards building up a loving relationship.

Diligent

A wife shows love to her husband by diligently carrying out her responsibilities in the family team.

Read **Proverbs 31:10-31** and then set your standards high.

Be more organised and efficient in performing your duties.

Close to God

A wife who honours and obeys God is a husband's greatest treasure.

Never let physical responsibilities limit the time you should be communicating with God. Staying close to God will smooth out the rough spots in life, physically and spiritually.

A loving wife is submissive

Again how important is the submission of the wife to the authority of her husband in the home?

So important that God is able to use that Christian attitude to call an unconverted mate into His church.

1 Peter 3:1-2 [NIV] *“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, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.”*

All Christians are bound together in love under the authority of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ will **not** claim as His future wife a stubborn, disobedient, unloving human as His bride.

All of us, male and female, are in training to learn to submit to God's appointed authority over us, to prepare us as a body to be the loving, caring, co-operative, faithful wife of Christ.

He will accept nothing less.

I ask you, what are you going to change for the better in your personal attitudes and activities that will benefit your present husband?

What practices are you going to set in motion?

Little things first!

What pleasantries are you going to develop to make your present husband happier?

Ask God to show you creative steps you can take to change each wrong attitude or habit.

But remember changes take time, so be patient and let God do the changes in you by the active presence of the Holy Spirit in you.

A wise woman will build a successful marriage by meeting her husbands in a manner as described in **Proverbs 31:10-31**.

As you act wisely, you will see a miraculous blossoming of your marriage relationship.