

Esteem

She wants you to honor and cherish her

Esteem is the last of the woman's desires and completes the COUPLE acronym. We will see that this is an attribute that we men need to provide to keep our vertical relationship as strong as our horizontal one with our wives.

Prayer Life Not Working?

* How are you treating your wife?

1PET 3:7 - 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 may not be hindered

Is your prayer life not working? How are you treating your wife? Sounds strange but is biblically based.

1PET 3:7. We have discussed this verse a lot and for good reason. There are a lot of principles in this verse that we have discussed already

1. living in an understanding way with our wives. 2. treating her as her caregiver/caretaker as she is the weaker vessel 3. Now HONORing her so that your prayers will not be hindered

- * Honor - Oxford Dictionary
 - * 1. High respect, great esteem
 - * a. a person or thing that brings esteem
- * Thesaurus - Esteem, adoration, adulation, immortalization, deification

Let's discuss honor. Oxford describes as high respect and great esteem – hence our “E”. A person that brings esteem.

If we look at the thesaurus, honor is synonymous with esteem, adoration, adulation, immortalization and I think all the ladies favorite.... deification

* Honor ^{Greek} - Esteem (especially of the highest degree) or Deference or Reverence

* C - O - U - P - L

* no "E" = no answered prayers

The word in the Greek is also the same for Esteem but not just typical esteem but of the highest degree. We are to give them deference and/or reverence

You can live in an Understanding way, you can be Close and Open, you can be Loyal and a Peacemaker BUT if you don't grant her honor your prayers will be hindered.

As an aside: What are other ways that your prayers can be hindered:

1. Selfish motives – James 4:3
2. Turning away from scripture – Prov 28:9
3. Unforgiving hearts – Mark 11:25
4. Unconfessed Sin – Psalm 66:18
5. Doubt – James 1:5-7
6. Family discord – 1Pet 3:7

How to Esteem and Cherish - Biblically

SONG 7:6 - How beautiful and how delightful you are, My love, with all your charms!

- * Compliments
 - * beauty and her personality
- * "Treasure" her

Solomon describes his new wife's beauty and comments on her charms and delight. She wants to hear this from you and have you show it to her.

Noticing something new either clothing, make up or hair style shows her that you notice her and care enough to comment on it. She also wants to know that you enjoy her personality and enjoy her as a person when with her. She will then feel treasured.

How to Esteem and Cherish - Biblically

EPH 5:29 - for no one ever hated his own flesh but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church

- * keeps her first and foremost
 - * nourish - give her what she needs
- * as Christ cherishes the church - sacrificially

Sacrificial love is an expression of the sacred marital union. It is the husband's obligation to cherish. This verse is specifically being directed to the husband in the marital bond.

Nourishing can be in the form of nutrition physical care, but it can also be in the form of emotional needs and desires. By nourishing her you are cherishing her as well.

Don't forget the example of Christ's sacrificial love to the church. That is your example throughout your marriage.

How to Esteem and Cherish - Biblically

PROV 31: 28-29 - Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."

- * recognize and reward her for her works and character

Two points here: 1. if you are cherishing and esteeming your wife, your children will do so as well. I have noted that kids will follow what their parents do, especially those of the same gender. If you as a father belittle and criticize your wife, your son is going to do the same and will likely do that to his spouse as well. You need to be aware of that and to honor her at all times but especially in front of others including the children.

2. Note that besides the children calling her blessed, her husband does as well. The husband goes further and compliments her on her acts as well as her as a person. He notices where she excels in all that she does. There is no comment on criticism here.

- * Women are made to be esteemed, honored, and respected
- * Honor your wife and honor your covenant with God
- * Respect is not the same that you desire
- * it is part of love

God made women to be esteemed, honored and respected and commanded us to do so as well.

Honor is a form of respect but is clearly a different kind of respect than what men require. The respect you need is an unconditional respect that your wife is to grant you. This respect is a PART of the love that you are to unconditionally give your wife. The respect she gets from you comes as part of all the other attributes we have discussed. The closeness, openness, understanding, peacemaking and loyalty that you practice will in turn show her the respect you have for her.

* **Respect, Honor and Esteem** not qualities in and of themselves

* they are components of the love she wants from you

Like in the last slide, each of these qualities are not distinct properties unto themselves. They are components of the the love that you are to unconditionally demonstrate and give to her. They are not separate but come together as a package so that she knows and feels the love you have for her is not fleeting but deep seated.

What is Esteem?

- * She's on your heart and mind
- * She is first and foremost
- * She feels treasured by you

By demonstrating the respect, honor and esteem for her she will feel the ESTEEM you have for her.

Here is what ESTEEM is to your wife. She just wants to know that she is first and foremost on your heart and mind. Remember last week in Solomon where she wanted to be branded like a signet ring on your heart and on your arm. That bonding both emotionally and physically? She needs to feel that from you at all times and in the end she will feel treasured by you and know that she is the most loved woman on earth.

Do the Kids Make Her Feel like a Failure?

- * Reassurance
 - * believe in her and the course she takes
- * No second guessing
- * Appreciation
 - * her part in your and the kids' lives

We just discussed how in Proverbs her children will rise up and call her blessed. Unfortunately it can take some time for that to happen and in the intervening years she is going to need some support from you to get to that point.

She needs reassurance from you that you believe in the way she is raising the kids and in the course she is taking as a mother. She should not be second guessed in that course.

You need to show her appreciation for the part she plays in your life and in the lives of your children.

You tie your self-image into who you are in the field/workplace. Your wife ties her self-worth into who she is in the family. Even working women still look at their children as their greatest achievements, and rightfully so. They want us to notice that as well.

A female VP of a national airline said – “At the end of the day, all that’s important is that I know he loves me and values me. that’s what I want more than anything else.”

Thank Her for All She Does

- * Esteem her for what she does - don't overlook cherishing who she is (character)
- * PROV 5:18b - Rejoice in the wife of your youth

Really appreciate her for what she does...

Husband came home from work to find bikes, scooters, and toys blocking the driveway. Once in the house it was a shambles with dirty dishes in the kitchen, laundry all piled up, clothing scattered everywhere. He found his two preschool children drawing on the walls. Finally he found his wife asleep in the bed. When he asked, 'Honey, the house is a disaster and the kids are running wild, what is happening?? She looked at him with a very tired smile and said, "you know how when you always come home from work and ask what I did all day?" He said, "yeah..." "Well today I didn't do it."

Remember to Rejoice in the wife of your youth. Tell her and show her.

Use Symbols to Show Your Wife Esteem

- * Symbolism - its ability to convey how you value and love her
- * Anniversaries & Birthdays
- * It's an art not a science

Most likely you will never be able to show her the amount of openness and esteem that she really wants, but symbols can do a great deal to bridge the gap. Anniversaries and birthdays are very important to most women as is Valentine's Day. Don't miss the chance to show her honor on those days.

When I say it is an art and not a science. Science puts a lot of stock in the material part of it, art is the creative, thoughtful part of it. I'll give you an example. Two men do two different things for their wife's birthday. One buys her a Mercedes for her birthday. The other takes her on a picnic and they go for a long walk talking about how they met and reminiscing about all they have been through. On the walk, the one husband finds a rock and before going to bed that night writes a favorite verse or poem on it as a memory of their day together.

When she is 85 yo and the husband is dead and gone... which gift will still be in her possession and treasured. A picture of the Mercedes? Doubtful.

Do the little things to let your wife know your deep feelings for her. They are much better than the materialistic things that don't take effort.

Remember... NEXT SLIDE

She wants to know you think about her -

Truly it is the thought that counts!

The thought is what counts!!

Your Wife Will Feel Esteemed when...

- * you open the door for her
- * you notice something different about her hair or clothes
- * you make her feel first in importance
- * you speak highly of her in front of others

She will feel esteemed by you when???

NEXT WEEK:

SEXUALITY