

The Proper Care and Treatment of Husbands

Sunday, June 30, 2019

Broader Implications for Divorce

The seeds of divorce were planted in the garden, creating a fundamental shift in the way men and women related to each other.

The spirit of divorce extends to the larger society, creating a world in which men and women live segregated from each other.

This is counterproductive because God said from the beginning that it is not good that man be alone.

Men should not live in a world that excludes women and dismisses what is valuable and important to them.

Divine Help

This is because, by definition, a woman is literally help that comes from the Lord.

Men, when women help you, it is the Lord helping you. When you resist her, you're resisting the Lord because she is the help that comes from Him.

When God's Help Goes Unrecognized

Men resisting women is like people in general resisting the Holy Spirit.

People resist the Holy Spirit because they don't like the way He reasons.

Rather than rely on the Holy Spirit, they would prefer to be guided by their intellect or natural thinking.

Men resist women because they don't like the way women reason.

Rather than receive the help God sends through women, men would rather rely on their own intellect because they think their way is inherently better.

Many people discriminate against the Holy Spirit because they do not think He is God the way the Father is God and the Son is God.

Men discriminate against women because they don't believe she is made in the image of God the way they are.

But the first thing Adam said when He saw Eve was, we're the same (Genesis 2:23).

Helping on God's Terms

Even without this biblical insight, women are perplexed that men are not eagerly receptive to their help.

This message is designed to address this perplexity with a special focus on the relationship between men and women in marriage.

The biggest mistake most wives make is providing help without addressing needs.

In essence, they are helping, but on their own terms.

The needs of your husband lie in places you're often not looking.

You have a profound impact on him emotionally.

When a man's needs from his wife are not met, he can become lonely, depressed, frustrated, angry and bitter.

Husband neglect is a thing.

You often would not know the depth of his pain because, generally speaking, men

- are not emotionally expressive.
- initially attempt to tough it out.
- turn to alcohol, workaholism, affairs and other unhealthy behaviors when their attempts to "man up" fail.

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- are not motivated to discuss their problems with their wives because it makes them feel weak and they anticipate that their wives will respond with criticism.
- are not aware of or make the time to participate in healthy opportunities to discuss their problems with other men.

How Should Women Respond?

Prayer (Proverbs 9:10) – Submission to God

Perspective (Hebrews 12:1; Colossians 3:2)

- Stop being clouded by social expectations and emotional weights
- Get a clear vision from God about what help for your husband is

Precision (Proverbs 4:18) – Clarity

Personal Care – Address misplaced priorities spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically, etc.

Prudence (Proverbs 24:6) – Don't just start shooting. Strategize

Put him first! – 1. God 2. Husband 3. Kids

Praise (Proverbs 15:22; 25:24; 27:15-16)

- Affirmation
- Appreciation (Philippians 2:14)
- Acknowledgement
- Approval and Acceptance
- Respect (*For Women Only*, Shaunti Feldhahn, pp. 29-48)
 1. His judgment
 2. His abilities
 3. In communication
 4. In public and at home
 5. His assumptions

Physicality (Proverbs 5:15-20)

- Sex
- Visual Look
- Affection

Patience (James 1:2-4)

Peace (Romans 16:20) – “Spiritual authority . . . is not forcing your will upon another person. When you have spiritual authority, you have established God's peace in an area that once was full of conflict and oppression (Frances Frangipane, *The Three Battlegrounds*, pp. 55-56)

Power (James 4:6)

Additional Resources

- *Four Things Women Want from a Man* (A.R. Bernard)
- *The Proper Care and Feeding of Husbands* (Dr. Laura Schlessinger)
- *For Women Only: What You Need to Know about the Inner Lives of Men* (Shaunti and Jeff Feldhahn)
- *For Men Only: A Straightforward Guide to the Inner Lives of Women* (Shaunti Feldhahn)
- *Mars and Venus Together Forever: A Practical Guide to Creating Lasting Intimacy* (John Gray)
- *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work* (John M. Gottman)
- *The Three Battlegrounds: An In-depth view of the three areas of spiritual warfare: The Mind, the Church and the heavenly places* (Frances Frangipane)