

Built By the Lord

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Chapter 12

Wives: Helping with Respect

- I. Building Up the Home
 - A. Imagine looking out your window and seeing the neighbor lady destroying her house with a sledge hammer. What would you think?
 - B. Proverbs 14:1 – Two words: Help and Respect
- II. A Suitable Helper
 - A. Genesis 2:18 → “A helper suitable for him.”
 - B. Wives Help by doing good to their husbands.
 - 1. Proverbs 31:10-12 - → “An excellent wife, who can find? ...
 - a. An excellent wife does not hinder or harm her husband.
 - b. Her help is so great her husband is known in the gates, Proverbs 31:23. i.e., he is recognized by the community as a leader and a role model.
 - 2. Titus 2:4-5 – Older women...
 - a. “Love” here is a form of the word “philos” which means “friend.”
 - b. Wives are to befriend their husbands.
 - c. Modern feminist extremists may teach that the wife is not the husband’s helper. She is his competitor.
 - d. The excellent wife does not compete for honor in the gates, she receives honor anyway, Proverbs 31:31.
 - C. Wives must help their husbands get to heaven.
 - 1. 1 Peter 3:1-2; 7
 - a. In the last chapter we learned that husbands are to take the lead in getting the family to heaven. Husbands need their wives’ help to do that.
 - b. This verse says that the husband and wife are fellow heirs of grace. They help each other get to heaven.
 - 2. Galatians 6:1 – As we help one another get to heaven remember:
 - a. To seek to restore them.
 - b. To be gentle, with a quiet and meek spirit.
 - c. To watch yourself.
 - D. Wives help by managing the home.
 - 1. 1 Timothy 5:14 – “keep house” = “house ruler” This is not dusting and vacuuming. This signifies managing and running.
 - 2. This is NOT about who makes the money in the home.
 - 3. Proverbs 31:21 – The excellent wife prepared for the future. She considered possible emergencies.
 - E. Wives help by guarding the home.
 - 1. Titus 2:5 – “Workers at home” = “House guard”
 - 2. Wives are to be a guardian. This is referring to spiritual guardianship.

III. R-E-S-P-E-C-T

- A. Ephesians 5:33 – Wife must respect her husband. Three keys to this respect:
- B. **First**, wives, you are to be subject to your own husbands, Ephesians 5:22.
 - 1. “Subject” or “submit” is a Greek military term which referred to arranging troops under the command of a leader.
 - 2. Any group working together must have a leader who has final authority.
 - 3. The only exception is the principle of Acts 5:29 – “We must obey God rather than men.” You must not submit to any direction that contradicts the will of God.
- C. **Second**, wives you are to submit to your husbands as to the Lord, Eph. 5:22.
 - 1. Ephesians 5:24 elaborates on this.
 - 2. Someone will say, “If the Lord were standing here, He would not be acting the way my husband is acting.” Sadly, this is often too true. Remember 1 Peter 3:1-2. Through the wife’s submission many ungodly husbands will be turned to godliness.
 - 3. Regrettably, most wives today do not take this approach. While there is no guarantee, I have seen and heard of the submission of wives working wonders in husbands’ lives. I have never yet seen or heard of the rebellion of a wife who has finally had enough bring a husband to repentance.
- D. **Third**, wives, you are to respect your husbands unconditionally.
 - 1. Ephesians 5:33
 - 2. Just as husbands are to love their wives unconditionally, wives are to respect their husbands unconditionally. God gives no caveats to remove your responsibility to respect your husband. Caveat – warning admonition
 - a. Many wives will finally obey their husbands, but they spend their whole time arguing with him about it.
 - b. Then, if the husband’s decision doesn’t in fact turn out to be incorrect, they will take the opportunity to say, “See, I told you so.” This is not respect.
 - 3. Just as husbands are to honor their wives, the Lord said you must treat your husbands with respect, Titus 2:5. “Greek word for love here is “phileo.”
 - 4. Many wives ask, “How can I respect this man?” He might truly be unrespectable.
 - 5. The same thing we said last week about the husband also applies to the wife. Your role is mutually exclusive of your husband’s and children’s behavior. Remember Proverbs 31:29

IV. Today’s response

- A. Wife, ask your husband what you can do this week to help him.
- B. Do you spend more time competing with your husband or complementing your husband.
- C. What would your husband say?
- D. How can you improve your respect and help?