



## Love that Changes Her – A Husband's Divine Privilege

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***The most powerful team on the planet  
is a husband and wife walking in oneness  
before a Holy God.***

Nothing exposes me more than being Nichole's husband.

### **Colossians 3:19**

Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter [or harsh] toward them

Husbands, love your wives with an...

affectionate, sympathetic, selfless love that always seeks the best for them

AND

do not be **embittered** or resentful toward them [because of the responsibilities of marriage]

**Bitter** – frustrated, annoyed, indignant, to grow angry... moves you to the state of passivity

**Bitterness is always, always more costly than brokenness.**

**Harsh** – short, sharp, sarcastic, selfish, severe,

Ruthless, critical, unkind, insensitive

### **1 Peter 3:7**

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

### **Ephesians 5:25**

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Husbands have the high privilege and high responsibility.

The "love" that is referred to in Ephesians 5:25, is a love that changes her.

It's the love of Christ working in you

and working through you primary to and for your wife.

It becomes a love in her and a love through her.

**Husband** – cultivator, gardener, vine dresser

Cultivate (plant love, grow love)

tend to loving her – look after her, care for her, attend to her, watch over her, minister to her  
dress her with love.

As husbands we need to talk a little softer, walk a little slower, listen a little closer.

## **1. A LOVE THAT LISTENS – The Ear Test**

It gets increasingly difficult to hear her voice.

She had a need to be heard.

As men, we are by and large tone-deaf because...

We already know everything.  
We already have it figured out.

Most husbands don't know WHAT they don't know.  
Most husbands don't know THAT they don't know.

If we are not careful, we not only become tone-deaf, we can get to where we are not teachable and with you get there you don't have the ability to LISTEN.

A husband who can't pass the ear test will struggle... and so will his wife.  
He will become stingy, stubborn, and stupid.

### **James 1:19-20**

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; <sup>20</sup> for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

## **2. A LOVE THAT OBSERVES – The Eye Test**

**OBSERVE** – perceive, witness, see, spot, discern, notice, study, pay attention, follow, celebrate,

Her Words – help you with insight  
Her Ways – help you with instinct

Appreciation comes from observation.

### **Genesis 2:24**

...a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

### **Matthew 19:5, Mark 10:8**

and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh.

## **Ephesians 5:31**

...a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Leave  
Cleave  
Receive

- Stay close to your wife, Staying close means to mingle, follow hard, stay very close by, keep fast, hold on to, don't turn loose, be near your woman!

Learn God's Divine Design. God has graced our lives with such beauty and blessing.

## **OBSERVE HER THROUGH SIGNS: Insight**

Interruptions of life, new birth, moves, job loss, loss of a close friend, or parent.

## **OBSERVE THROUGH THE SEASONS: Instinct**

winter / spring / summer / fall

## **3. A LOVE THAT VALUES – The Heart Test**

### **Proverbs 18:22**

He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.

A wife is a valuable blessing, treasure, and sign of divine favor.

She knows what you value.

Jesus gave Himself up for the church.

Gave Himself – to hand over, give...

- Failure to honor your wife harms your ability to live out your true purpose as a married man.
- Heaven seems silent to you because you are not honoring your wife as God intended.

Talk with her, let her know what's right here (CLOSE TO THE HEART).

Tell her your focus  
Tell her your feelings  
Tell her your fears  
Tell her your faults

She's a helpmeet suitable for you!  
She doesn't complete you!!! You are complete in Christ!


Worth – Heaviness

Your wife is heavy. It's the Word for Glory. Significant. Important. Weighty.

#### 4. A LOVE THAT ENCOURAGES – The Mouth Test

##### Psalm 128

Blessed is every one who fears the LORD,  
Who walks in His ways.

<sup>2</sup> When you eat the labor of your hands,  
You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.

<sup>3</sup> Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine  
In the very heart of your house,

Your children like olive plants  
All around your table.

<sup>4</sup> Behold, thus shall the man be blessed  
Who fears the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD bless you out of Zion,  
And may you see the good of Jerusalem  
All the days of your life.

<sup>6</sup> Yes, may you see your children's children.  
Peace be upon Israel!

Simple. Significant. Supernatural.

Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine  
In the very heart of your house,  
Your children like olive plants  
All around your table.

**Proverbs 18:22**, He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor of the Lord.

Nothing can multiply a man's mission like a good woman.  
Nothing can consume it like a bad one.

##### a. The Vine **Clings**

For her to cling, she needs your **support**  
Firm hold

For her to cling, she needs your **strength**  
Fulfilling hope

##### b. The Vine **Climbs**

Opportunity  
Maturity

Vitality

### c. The Vine **Clusters**

Fruit

Wealth is not determined by what's on the but who is around the table

### **Legacy**

It's not the number of seeds in the grape.

It's the number of grapes in the seed.

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### **Pray with your wife.**

Let her hear your voice.

Let her hear your vision.

Let her hear what you value.

You better get right in her ear so she can hear you talk to God.

Pull her up close to you and pray for her.

Whatever it is you're dealing with... Say it to God in her ears.

Whatever it is you're doubting... Say it to God in her ears.

Whatever it is that you're deciding... Say it to God in her ears.

Listen... when you provide for the garden, the garden provides for you.

To encourage means to...

Put Power In – discourage means to take courage out

Speak Life In

Build Up

Bless

Bind

### ***A Husband's Divine Privilege is that he has a wife that is***

#### **1. Be Humble before Him**

#### **James 4:6**

"God resists the proud,

But gives grace to the humble."

Proud people focus on the failures of others.

*Broken people are overwhelmed with a sense of their own spiritual need.*

Proud people have a critical, fault-finding spirit; they look at everyone else's faults with a microscope but their own with a telescope.

*Broken people are compassionate; they can forgive much because they know how much they have been forgiven.*

Proud people are self-righteous; they look down on others.

*Broken people esteem all others better than themselves.*

Proud people have an independent, self-sufficient spirit.

*Broken people have a dependent spirit; they recognize their need for others.*

Proud people have a hard time saying, "I was wrong; will you please forgive me?"

*Broken people are quick to admit failure and to seek forgiveness when necessary.*

## 2. **Be Forgiving of Him**

**Matthew 18:21-35**

## 3. **Be Helpful to Him**

**Genesis 2:18**

And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

Your husband was created to need a helpmeet.

You were created to be a helpmeet.

## 4. **Be Thankful for Him**

**1 Thess. 5:16, 18**

Rejoice always...

in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

## 5. **Be Prayerful about Him**

**1 Thess. 5:17**

Pray without ceasing

31 Days of Prayer for Your Husband