

Respecting Your Husband...

A Self-Assessment Quiz

Ask yourself if you are manifesting any of these signs

Rate yourself on a scale of 1-5 (one being the lowest score and 5 being the best)

Make note of the ones you scored the lowest on and write down specific ways you can improve in that area. Then come together with your husband and ask him to rate you in each area. (The scores may not be the same!) Make changing a matter of specific prayer and ask your husband to hold you accountable.

1. Do you speak to your husband in a condescending, "put down" manner?

For example:

"What the matter with you?"
"Anybody could have done better than you did."
"My Dad would have never done that."
"Can't you do anything right?"
"I should have known better than to depend on you."
"Don't be stupid."
"What you just said is ridiculous."
"You're too slow, I'll do it myself."

"It is better to live in a desert land, than with a contentious and vexing woman." Prov. 21:19

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2. Do you treat your husband in private as respectfully as you do your pastor, your neighbor, or your friends in public?

"Honor all men, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king." I Peter 2:17

(If "honor all men" is how you are to treat others, how much more should you show respect to your husband?)

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3. Does your countenance show your disrespect by angry looks, disgust, crossed arms, etc.?

"Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.'" Genesis 4:6-7

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4. Do you talk for your husband or interrupt him?

"Love is patient... does not act unbecomingly, it does not seek its own (way)..." I Cor. 13:4-5

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5. Do you try to intimidate or bully your husband by making threats, verbally attacking him, crying, or in some other way manipulating him to have your way?

"The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands." Prov. 14:1

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6. Do you bring up his shortcomings to others?

"Her husband is known in the gates..." Prov. 31:23

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7. Do you inappropriately contradict him in front of others?

"She does him good and not evil all the days of her life." Prov. 31:12

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8. Do you compare him unfavorably with other men?

"...for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am." Philippians 4:11

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9. Do you listen carefully to your husband's opinion, trying to understand him?

"Let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak..." James 1:19

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10. Do you respect his position in the home so much that he can depend on you to do as he asks even when he is not home?

"The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain." Prov. 31:11

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_____ 11. Would your husband say that you have a meek and quiet spirit? If you do, it will be apparent in how you treat him.

"And let not your adornment be merely external braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God." I Peter 3:3-4

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12. Are you obeying God by being respectful to your husband?

"...let the wife see to it that she respect her husband." Ephesians 5:33

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If you low on any of the above questions, then you are not as respectful to your husband as God would have you be. Confess it to God as sin, realizing He will be **"faithful and just to forgive..." (I John 1:9)** and ask your husband's forgiveness. Be clear about what you have done wrong.

Respecting authority is practically a lost art, but as a Christian wife, with God's enabling grace, you can cultivate a respectful attitude. Circumstances come and go, husbands succeed and fail, some merit respect and others do not, but whatever your situation, you can by an act of your will show biblical respect to your husband and show love to God in the process.

(Taken from Martha Peace, "Excellent Wife - A Biblical Perspective", Focus Publishing, 1995)