

# ***15 POINTS OF COUNSEL TO A HUSBAND***

## ***I. A WIFE NEEDS TO BE CHERISHED BY HER HUSBAND - EPH. 5:25***

A. What does cherishing love involve? - I Cor. 13:4:-8

1. A husband is not to focus on the **FLAWS** of his wife - “suffereth long”
2. He is to be **TENDER** and gentle to her - “is kind”
  - a. He does not allow himself to speak harshly to her
  - b. He never “**MANHANDLES**” her
3. He is not to be obsessed with his own needs or desires - “envieth not”
  - a. He **ENTRUSTS** to her his desires
  - b. Placing her interests and desires into his priorities
4. He openly “**BRAGS**” about his wife - “vaunteth not itself”
  - a. Openly compliments her (strengths / character)
  - b. Making it outwardly evident that he is grateful for his wife
5. He seeks her counsel and **CAUTIONS** - “not puffed up”
  - a. Placing a high value upon her opinion
  - b. Never flaunting an “I know more than you” attitude!
6. He never seeks to **FORCE** himself upon his wife - “not unseemly”
  - a. He does not behave indecently
  - b. He never seeks to cause his wife to **VIOLATE** her conscience
7. A willing (almost eager) spirit to **SACRIFICE** for her - “seeketh not...own”
8. He forgives (practices **FORGETTING**) her past offenses - “not ... provoked”
  - a. A short temper stems from a well remembered list of offenses
  - b. Part of forgiveness is not dwelling upon the offender’s flaws
9. He seeks to **ASSUME** the best about his wife (intentions) - “thinketh no evil”
10. He sincerely compliments / supports her **ACHIEVEMENTS** - “rejoiceth in ... truth”
11. He can be trusted with her deepest **SECRETS** - “beareth all things”
  - a. The opposite is one who seeks to hurt by revealing secrets
  - b. This type of person is called a “talebearer” in Proverbs
12. He places his faith and confidence in his wife - “believeth all things”
  - a. He is willing to depend on her
  - b. He allows himself to **NEED** her (inwardly acknowledges this)
13. He **CONFIDES** in his wife - “hopeth all things”
  - He trusts her with his heart
14. He is willing to **SUFFER** with his wife - “endureth all things”
  - He willingly joins her “turmoil” in her personal struggles / trials
15. He is **COMMITTED** to her for life - “never faileth”

B. She needs her husband to be her best friend

1. He enjoys most spending TIME with her
2. Any relationship is built upon three steps (in this order)
  - a. COMMUNICATION - Talking, discussing, planning, sharing
  - b. TRUST - Confiding, leaning upon
  - c. LOVE - Cherishing, commitment
3. They need to share common GOALS, striving for them daily
4. She knows that he will always be prone to “side” with her

C. His actions and words need to prove his affection for her

1. She needs to hear him SINCERELY tell her that he loves her
  - Eye-contact is key!
2. She needs to know that he loves to INVEST in her
3. He needs to continue their DATING life
  - a. This should not stop after marriage
  - b. They should never stop working on and investing in their relationship
4. A wife strongly desires a ROMANTIC husband
  - a. He is continuing to “win her heart”
  - b. He is full of loving surprises
  - c. He is continually seeking to IMPRESS her
  - d. He is continually seeking to DEFEND her
  - e. He is continually seeking to sacrifice for her
  - f. He is continually seeking to speak / share of his love for her
5. He needs to demonstrate that he loves her more than extended family & friends
  - She should never feel that she must COMPETE for his affection!

**II. SHE NEEDS A HUSBAND WHO LISTENS TO HER - I COR. 7:3; I PET. 3:7**

A. She will feel more secure knowing that he is listening to her

1. A wife fears a husband too proud to listen to her CAUTIONS
2. She is secure with a man who realizes that he has a limited frame of reference

B. A husband who does not listen communicates a lack of love

1. It is very OFFENSIVE to be ignored
2. A husband needs to put himself in her POSITION
  - A man especially does not like to be ignored!

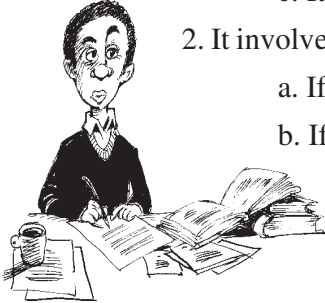
C. It will enable him to keep current with her NEEDS

1. Many men are caught by surprise because they do not listen
2. It helps him understand her way of THINKING
3. It communicates his need for her input



D. Listening is more than just hearing

1. It involves responding, INTELLIGENTLY
  - a. Many men develop a “pseudo-listening” face
  - b. Avoiding GRUNTS, moans, and meaningless gestures
  - c. It can quickly become a habit with husbands
2. It involves acting on (if necessary) what was discussed
  - a. If he does not listen, she may stop talking
  - b. If talking stops, each is left to second-GUESS the other
    - (1). This will lead to ASSUMPTION
    - (2). A relationship based on assumption is a relationship headed for a disaster!



E. A wife feels cherished when her husband loves to listen to her

1. An insensitive husband will often feel that his wife has nothing IMPORTANT to contribute
2. A husband who wants to love his wife needs to love LISTENING to her
3. A husband who does not listen to his wife will soon come to need his wife less
4. A wife needs to be NEEDED !

F. Learn and practice listening

1. Listening involves FACING the one talking
2. Listening involves EYE - CONTACT
3. Listening involves responding (agreeing / disagreeing)
4. Listening involves a genuine, heartfelt CONCERN for the other
  - Placing a high value on the other person

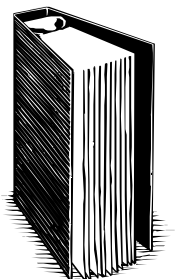
**III. SHE NEEDS HIM TO TAKE THE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP OF THE FAMILY - EPH. 5:23**

A. He is to be more than an authority, he is to be a LEADER

1. A leader must set the example
  - He leads by his own ACTIONS first (he steps out first)
2. A leader needs to be ANSWERABLE to an authority
  - a. He needs to remember his accountability to God
  - b. He is to be ultimately responsible for the spiritual direction of his family
3. He needs to focus on being a MOTIVATOR not a “driver”

B. What does his spiritual leadership require of him?

1. A genuine FAITH in God and His Word - Heb. 11:6
  - Wives and children can quickly spot hypocrisy
2. He needs to take it on to “GROW” his family spiritually
  - a. He sets and carries out family times in the Word & prayer
  - b. He prepares the Word into “palatable PORTIONS” - II Tim. 2:15



- c. He sets GOALS for the family as a whole and as individuals
- d. He and his wife need to be growing as a couple
- 3. He must become well STUDIED in the Word - II Tim. 3:16-17
  - He gathers spiritual TOOLS to build and repair his family
- 4. He makes each family member's spiritual need his PRIORITY - Eph. 6:4
  - a. He does not desire to DELEGATE matters of such importance
  - b. If outside counsel must be sought, he SUPERVISES it
- 5. He makes it a point to be alert to his family's needs
  - a. If he's not looking he may MISS it or see it too late
  - b. He must remain SOBER - free from distraction - I Pet. 5:8
    - Once the husband / father is "taken out" the rest is vulnerable
- 6. He develops a PROTECTIVE drive for their spiritual well being
  - As one who must give an account for their SOULS - Heb. 13:17
- 7. He is willing to seek counsel when he cannot solve conflicts
  - a. He is always looking to God first
  - b. He does not try to HIDE the weaknesses of his family

C. What does his spiritual leadership not require of him?

- 1. Setting up a spiritual DICTATORSHIP - I Pet. 5:3
  - a. He does not have to have all of the ANSWERS
  - b. He needs to be open to the suggestions of his family
- 2. It should not become a point of spiritual PRIDE - Gal. 6:3
  - Being a spiritual leader does not mean that he has a greater spiritual perception than his wife
- 3. It does not involve delegating the family's spiritual needs to someone else
  - Often times he hands it over to the wife
  - Often times he hands it over to the church
- 4. Always remember, leadership is really SERVITUDE !

The depth and strength of a man's commitment is not tested in times of ease but in times of discouragement, when he conquers the persistent urge to give-up!



#### IV. SHE NEEDS TO SEE HIM HAVING PERSONAL TIMES IN GOD'S WORD - II TIM. 2:15

A. It demonstrates that he looks OUTSIDE himself for answers

1. "Someone wrapped up in himself makes a very small package."
2. It demonstrates that he is seeking to deal with his WEAKNESSES
3. He must avoid a "no needs" attitude
  - a. He must be honest about his SIN - I Jn. 1:8-9
  - b. He must be honest about his spiritual NEEDS - Rev. 3:17
4. A wife is not seeking the "perfect" husband, just a husband who will be loving and realistic when it comes to he and his family
  - a. He has a LEARNER'S spirit (seeking to improve himself)
  - b. He is open to counsel and CONSTRUCTIVE criticism
  - c. He even seeks out his wife's suggestions for his improvement
5. He builds his BIBLICAL resources (tools) to continue his growth

B. He needs to have (develop) a deep love and NEED for God's Word

1. He is to be a regular (daily) READER and student of the Word
2. His family regularly reaps the benefits of his insights
  - a. He is excited to share new THOUGHTS he had not known
  - b. He seeks to find new PERSPECTIVES in his studies (pictures)
    - Comparing the Word with his current challenges
  - c. He is disciplined to discover PRECISE applications
  - d. He seeks to surround himself with MOTIVATIONAL passages
  - e. He does not "skip over" CONVICTION causers

C. This demonstrates that he has the fear of God in his life

1. She needs to see that he is a man under God's AUTHORITY
2. She needs to see that he is driven with desire to OBEY
3. His personal times in the Word are proven by his SWIFT responses to conviction

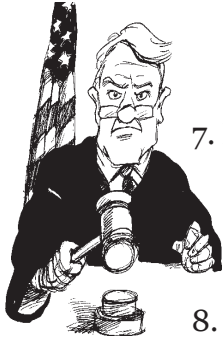


#### V. SHE NEEDS TO SEE SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN HER HUSBAND - I JOHN 1:5-10

A. What are some of the examples of growth that she needs to see?

1. An open recognition of his needs
2. His TEMPER is not lost - a controlled spirit
  - Uncontrolled anger is a sign of immaturity
3. He begins to develop a SERVANT'S heart
  - a. He seeks to serve others, especially his family
  - b. He is not too proud to serve the "lowly"
4. He takes on UNDESIRABLE projects for the spiritual benefit
  - Tasks especially for the benefit of his family members





5. He handles criticism and challenges HUMBLY
6. He is quick to bring his PRESSURES to God (prayer)
  - a. He does not “take them out” on his wife
  - b. He does not “take them out” on his children
  - c. If they are “bottled up” he will EXPLODE emotionally
7. He is consistent to judge his own sin (failures) APPROPRIATELY
  - a. He does not seek to EXCUSE his wrong
  - b. He does not CONDEMN himself over his sin
    - If so, he may treat his wife accordingly
8. God is a major part of his daily CONVERSATION

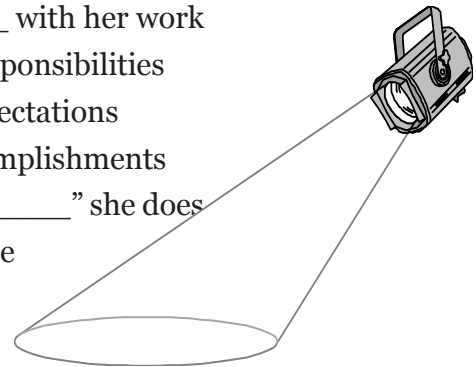
B. Why is this so important to his wife?

1. It gives her hope for his other “FLAWS”
  - a. She does not worry that they will grow (go undealt with)
  - b. It makes her submission more achievable and BELIEVEABLE
2. It enables her to fully trust him and his MOTIVES
  - She knows that he knows that he is seen and known of God
3. It challenges her to GROW spiritually
4. He sets the “TREND” for the rest of the family

**VI. SHE NEEDS A HIM TO DEMONSTRATE DETAILED GRATEFULNESS - COL. 3:14-15**

A. How does he do this?

1. He first makes sure that his EXPECTATIONS are realistic / reasonable
  - When they are unrealistic, it makes gratefulness impossible
2. He makes sure he can IDENTIFY with her work
  - a. He needs to “try out” some of her responsibilities
  - b. This will help him form realistic expectations
3. He needs to sincerely compliment her accomplishments
4. He needs to be alert to the “EXTRAS” she does
  - a. This makes her work more enjoyable
  - b. This will make her want to do more



B. Why is this so important to her?

1. She feels cherished when he cherishes her efforts
2. It enables her to ENJOY her responsibilities
3. It helps her see the SIGNIFICANCE of her efforts
  - The stronger the purpose, the stronger the resolve!
4. It makes the “frustrations” more bearable
  - We are willing to SUFFER if the goal is deemed worthy
5. It proves to her that he is interested in what she does
  - A man uninterested in the daily affairs of his family will end up losing his family



C. A Scriptural guideline in expressing praise - Php. 4:8



1. Express gratefulness for her TRUTHFULNESS - open communication
  - a. When she is able to effectively express her heart
  - b. When she “TALKS OUT” her joys and concerns
  - c. When she admits her weaknesses



2. Express gratefulness for her high VALUES - “honest”
  - a. When she INVESTS her time, money, and efforts in worthy causes
  - b. When she invests in the lives of others
    - Especially in her efforts with the family



3. Express gratefulness for her SUBMISSION to God - “just”
  - a. When she responds well to life’s pressures and stresses
  - b. When she seeks out God’s answers to her questions
  - c. When she expresses FAITH in God (especially in hard times)



4. Express gratefulness for her PURITY
  - a. When she avoids “questionable” areas (possible stumblingblocks)
  - b. When she studies God’s Word on her own
  - c. When she deals appropriately with SIN in her life



5. Express gratefulness for her useful PRACTICALITY - “lovely”
  - a. When she comes up with creative solutions
  - b. New ideas to meet needs more effectively



6. Express gratefulness for her “good NAME” - “good report”
  - a. When she seeks the support of the REPUTABLE for the family
  - b. When she directs the children’s attention to good examples

**VII. SHE NEEDS TO BE RESPECTED AND HONORED IN THE PRESENCE OF OTHERS - 1 PET. 3:7**

A. A husband must PURPOSE to show his wife honor

1. He needs to demonstrate that he affixes a high value on her
2. It is not appropriate to publicly point out her “perceived” FAULTS
3. She needs to see that he ENJOYS praising her (achievements / character)

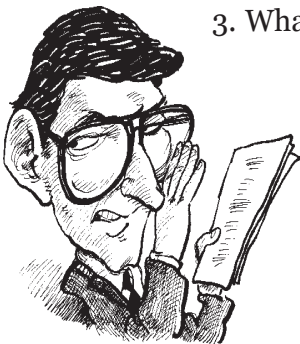
B. Great harm is done when the wife is degraded in public

1. It clearly communicates the OPPOSITE of cherishing
2. It communicates the spirit of belittling
3. What would motivate a husband to do this?

- a. REVENGE - getting back at her disrespect of him
- b. Low self-image - Makes him feel “better” than her
- c. A guilty CONSCIENCE

- (1). That he is not fulfilling his spiritual duty
- (2). That her cautions are correct
- (3). She is a reminder of his failures as a husband

d. He is trying to convince others that he is not the source of family conflicts



C. She desires her husband to OUTWARDLY demonstrate his love for her

1. That he prefers to SIT with her in public

- Constantly leaving her alone can be hurtful

2. That he outwardly speaks of his affection for her

- She wants all those around her to see her husband's love for her

D. What are the consequences of a dishonored wife?

1. A wife who takes delight in DISHONORING her husband

- It can actually become a point of competition

2. A SILENT, embittered wife

a. She holds it in (the hurt) and allows it to build

b. She no longer seeks to tell her husband her TRUE feelings

c. The marriage becomes a massive conflict

3. An UNFAITHFUL wife

a. She seeks the affection of another man

b. She seeks the honor and respect of those OUTSIDE the family

- She sets her focus on becoming a career woman

4. A DEPRESSED wife

- She will come to the point where she refuses comfort



#### **VIII. SHE NEEDS HER HUSBAND TO DEMONSTRATE LOVE & AFFECTION TO THE CHILDREN - EPH. 6:4**

A. Neglect and dislike of the children can be taken as neglect and dislike of the WIFE

1. She provided the greater SACRIFICE for them

- A wise husband is one who continually acknowledges his gratefulness for his wife's pain in child bearing!

2. Having children is a major part of her PURPOSE

a. Rejecting the children is like rejecting her sacrifices

b. It is one of the factors that makes her clearly distinct from her husband

B. There is a crucial need for him to SHARE in this responsibility

1. Rearing children is intended to be a two parent job (if possible)

2. Her relationship with the children may become CONTENTIOUS without her husband's direct input

a. Fatigue becomes overbearing without help

b. She needs her husband to set the overall family guidelines

c. She needs to have her husband BACK - UP her commands

- Parents must be united in their discipline

d. She becomes frustrated when he fails to support her

e. She will not want MORE children if the one(s) she has cannot be brought under control



- C. She needs a husband whose PRIORITY is his family first (over work)
1. Children should draw the husband and wife together, not apart
  2. The husband needs to view his children as the REWARD of God - Psa. 127:3
  3. A wife and children do not want to have to COMPETE for his attention
- D. She needs to see him loving his children
1. Taking time to lovingly DISCIPLINE them
  2. Taking time to PLAY with them
  3. Taking time to TEACH them
  4. Taking time to comfort and encourage them

**IX. SHE NEEDS HER HUSBAND TO STRIVE TO BE NEAT AND CLEAN - I SAM. 16:7**

- A. It will aid her in respecting and reverencing her husband
- SLOPPINESS is an “enemy” of respect
- B. It demonstrates his concern for his wife’s REPUTATION
- It can be a reflection on the whole household
- C. It shows her that he still desires to IMPRESS her
- a. A husband should never lose the desire to be admired by his wife
  - b. It is not the best to assume that your partner will not care about your appearance
- D. It also demonstrates a respect for HIMSELF
- A if he does not respect himself, odds are that he will not respect his wife!



**X. SHE HAS A DEFINITE NEED FOR HOME ORGANIZATION - I COR. 14:33, 40**

- A. What are the perils of a disorganized (messy) home?
1. It promotes DISCOURAGEMENT (even depression)
  2. It can drain the family of MOTIVATION
  3. It serves as a constant reminder of what must be done
  4. Valuable TIME is lost searching for things
  5. It promotes the spirit of LAZINESS
  6. It discourages HOSPITALITY (having others over)
  7. Too much time must be spent on LESS important things
    - It could be used in more productive areas
  8. It makes the home an UNDESIRABLE place to be
- B. So how is this need to be dealt with?
1. Do not allow yourself to presuppose that the home NEATNESS is just your wife’s responsibility
  2. The husband needs to be a SCHEDULE maker
    - This should be a joint effort



3. Yes, the husband should assist with the house CLEANING
  - a. He needs to be alert to set an example
  - b. He needs to make sure that the children are helping
    - Children need to have individual responsibilities
4. He needs to demonstrate that he LOVES to be at home
  - Why should the wife bother emphasizing something in which the husband has very little interest ?
  - An overly critical husband drives the motivation right out of his wife
5. DELEGATE responsibilities!
  - This is especially crucial when the wife must work outside the home

### ***XI. SHE NEEDS HER HUSBAND TO ACT AS HER PROTECTOR - JOHN 15:13, EPH. 5:25-30***

#### **A. A physical protector**

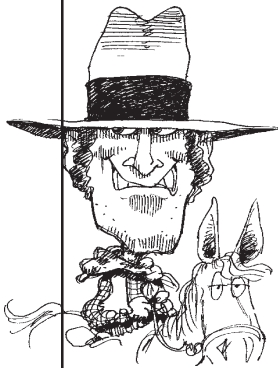
1. Be ALERT to her physical safety (wise precautions) - the car!
2. Do not MOCK her fears
  - This may prompt her to look elsewhere for comfort / protection
3. Stand close to her in CROWDED places
4. Walk on the side of the sidewalk closest to the ROAD
5. Hold her hand when she is NERVOUS or afraid

#### **B. A mental protector**

1. Be especially sensitive to her needs during HARD times
2. Share her GRIEF in sad times
3. Defend her from harmful CRITICISM
  - She is to be shown preferential treatment!
4. Work to “lift” her up when she is “down”

#### **C. A spiritual protector**

1. Remove from the home anything which causes her to “STUMBLE”
2. PRAY for her protection (especially when she can hear)
3. Share with her your efforts to JUDGE your own sins
  - Satan has “grounds” to attack through the husband if he will not deal with his own personal sins
  - A husband who neglects his own spiritual condition is a husband who will neglect his family’s spiritual condition
4. Set up protective STANDARDS for the whole family
  - a. Not guidelines without “reasonable” reasons
    - Often, rules without reason equals REBELLION
  - b. They should be standards specifically geared towards protection
    - Not to become the foundation to spiritual pride



**XII. SHE NEEDS HER HUSBAND TO TAKE THE LEADERSHIP IN THE DISCIPLINE OF THE CHILDREN - PRO. 3:12**

A. Children have a tendency to “ FEAR ” the father more - Heb. 12:9

- A man “commands” more respect

B. It will enable the wife to keep the household “under control”

1. The absence of discipline is the presence of CHAOS

2. Without discipline (esp. the father) The children become MANIPULATORS

C. Fathers are needed to provide strong “ WALLS ”

1. Children will constantly test the boundaries (rules)

2. A father needs to set clear family guidelines

3. A father needs to explain the purpose for the rules

4. A wife lets the children know that she is enforcing the “law” of the father



D. A father needs a controlled SPIRIT in discipline (not losing temper)

- An angry hand is apt to miss the mark

E. It teaches the children proper levels of AUTHORITY

1. The children are to follow the rules of the parents

2. The wife follows the guidelines of her LOVING husband

3. The husband follows the instructions of God’s Word

F. A man is more apt to FORCE children to take their responsibility

G. It keeps the husband actively involved in SOLVING family conflicts

- Men often like to “shy away” from these types of responsibility

H. It keeps before the father the spiritual CONDITION of the family

1. “Breakdowns” in the family will often point-out his own failures

2. It reveals “holes” in his protective shelter for his family

3. It will help him in developing a BURDEN to pray for his family

I. It can even PROTECT the mother from the children

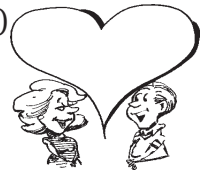
**XIII. SHE NEEDS TO KNOW THAT SHE MEETS HIS NEEDS THAT NO OTHER WOMAN COULD - MT. 5:28**

A. A woman has a fear of being REPLACED (realistic jealousy)

1. A man with uncontrolled EYES is a grief to his wife

2. She does not want her husband to have uncontrolled thoughts

3. She does not want him to be overly fascinated with other women



B. He needs to reaffirm to her that her UNIQUENESS is customized just for him

1. Her strengths are needed to strengthen his weaknesses

2. He needs her PERSPECTIVE to form right decisions and responses

C. She needs to know that she is ATTRACTIVE to her husband

1. Thus, he has no needs to look elsewhere

2. She has a need to be touched affectionately by her husband

- With an affectionate motive!

D. He needs to regularly recount how God brought them together

1. This reaffirms to her his ASSURANCE of their union
2. It is devastating to a wife if she feels that her husband questions God's will in their marriage



- To do this is to put the marriage on the same level as sin
- To do this is like pronouncing the marriage to be a mistake
- Marriage is much more than mere mutual love...
  - q It is a once-for-all COVENANT
  - q It is a willing dependence on my partner
  - q It is an OBEDIENCE to God in fulfilling marital responsibility
  - q It is seeking to find my joy in the joy of my spouse
  - q It is a DAILY surrendering of myself to the needs of my spouse

E. Children (especially daughters) are alert to their father's EYES

#### ***XIV. SHE NEEDS TO KNOW HE IS AWARE OF HER EVEN WHEN THINKING ON OTHER THINGS***

A. Again, this concept is in light of I Peter 3:7 (A part of showing honor)

- It is common knowledge that we give attention to that which is important

B. His attention to her, especially when BUSY communicates her importance!

C. EYE-contact is important, especially in crowds (why?)

1. It reaffirms that he always realizes that they are a TEAM

2. It reaffirms his enjoyment of SHARING experiences with her

D. It demonstrates his PROTECTIVE spirit towards her - I Tim. 3:2 (vigilant)

- He is alert to see if she is uncomfortable
- He seeks to assist if it is at all possible (knight in shining armor!)

E. It demonstrates that she is "above all else" he does!

1. Many men would be quick to try to point out that this is true except putting her above God's will for their lives

2. It must be remembered that his responsibility to his wife involves a major portion of his obedience to God's will for his life!

#### ***XV. SHE NEEDS HER HUSBAND TO INVEST TO EXPAND & FULFILL HER WORLD - EPH. 5:25***

A. How does he invest?

1. Use his personal resources in aiding her in meeting her personal goals

2. As best as you can, don't have "HIS & HERS" designations of property

- Remember saying "...I bestow all my earthly goods...?"

3. Give her much of your TIME in doing things for her

4. Make personal SACRIFICES to meet a need or even a desire of hers

- a. She feels most cherished when he is willing to sacrifice for her
- b. Never, never hold your "sacrifices" against her

5. Put her goals on an equal plane as your own

- a. Wives, goals need to be realistic and not harmful to the family
- b. Husbands need to be loving protectors (not judgemental)



B. He needs to take interest in her world as he desires her to be interested in his

# ***15 POINTS OF COUNSEL TO A WIFE***

## ***I. A HUSBAND DESIRES HIS WIFE HONOR AND RESPECT HIM - EPH. 5:33***

- A. A man desires respect and reverence from his wife even more than love
1. He may evaluate honor as the best way for her to **DEMONSTRATE** \_\_\_\_\_ love
  2. A man often finds his **SELF-WORTH** \_\_\_\_\_ in what he perceives others think of him
    - a. This area is very important to a man
    - b. A supportive family can make a very contented husband / father
- B. How does he desire to be “reverenced”?
1. To have his wife take **CAUTIOUS** \_\_\_\_\_ approaches to his failures
    - a. A man reacts to a wife with a proud / aggressive spirit
    - b. A man reacts to being treated as a **CHILD** \_\_\_\_\_
  2. He desires to have a wife who trusts him
    - a. A man does not like to be **QUESTIONED** \_\_\_\_\_ on all his decisions
    - b. A man loses **INTEREST** \_\_\_\_\_ when he feels he cannot earn trust
  3. He wants his efforts to **PLEASE** \_\_\_\_\_ his wife to be gratefully noticed
  4. He desires his wife and family to seek his **COUNSEL** \_\_\_\_\_ and to act on it
  5. He wants his wife to seek to **RELATE** \_\_\_\_\_ to his pressures by looking at them from his perspective
  6. He loves for his wife to compliment him to others
    - a. A man greatly dislikes his wife to **BELITTLE** \_\_\_\_\_ him in public
      - Remember, he finds much of his self-worth in perceived reputation
    - b. A husband loves a wife who “**BRAGS** \_\_\_\_\_” about him
      - (1). This clearly communicates her “reverence” of him
      - (2). A man is “turned-off” when his wife respects other men more than himself!
      - (3). Men desire wives who value their leadership

## ***II. A HUSBAND NEEDS TO HAVE HIS WIFE COME TO HIM FOR LEADERSHIP - EPH. 5:22-24***

- A. A man has a natural, God-given desire to be the leader in his home
1. A man “not allowed” to lead will soon become **UNINTERESTED** \_\_\_\_\_
    - a. It will remind him of his inability to gain respect
    - b. He will soon come to fear stirring up conflict with his wife
  2. Much of a man’s **PURPOSE** \_\_\_\_\_ in life is found in leading his family
    - a. He is frustrated with a wife who competes for the authority
    - b. A man needs to know that he has the “**FINAL** \_\_\_\_\_ word”
- B. Men who do not feel that they lead their families are apt to relinquish responsibility
1. A man is most often more motivated by **PRESSURE** \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Without this motivation he may allow his **FOCUS** \_\_\_\_\_ to wander
- C. A man is motivated to right choices knowing he is responsible for his family
1. He needs this type of **ACCOUNTABILITY** \_\_\_\_\_
  2. A discerning wife will allow him to accept this responsibility
  3. A discerning wife will realize her husband is motivated to be a cautious protector

D. A man will resent when he is forced to compete for the leadership in the family

1. He should not have to compete with the WIFE
2. He should not have to compete with the CHILDREN
3. He should not have to compete with another PERSON

E. He needs his family to come to him for answers

1. He is motivated knowing his family is seeking his spiritual leadership
2. He is motivated knowing the family looks to him for answers

F. A man loves to know his family is looking to him for PROTECTION

G. A husband needs a submissive wife - I Pet. 3:1-6

1. It can be a TOOL to “turn-around” a disobedient husband - vs. 1
2. It is a big part of demonstrating her inward CHARACTER - vs. 3-4
3. It is literally an act of FAITH on her part to be “under” her husband
  - a. The key for her is the “meek and quiet spirit”
  - b. This is gentle, cautious responsiveness
4. Don’t allow your responses to be dominated by FEARS - vs. 6

H. If his decision is wrong, never, never “rub it in”

1. Many wives, when their husbands disagree with them become anxious to point out any error or negative consequences in his decision
2. This is a “guaranteed RIFT” between the couple!



### **III. HE NEEDS HIS WIFE TO DEMONSTRATE DETAILED GRATEFULNESS - COL. 3:14-15**

A. How does she do this?

1. She must first make sure that her EXPECTATIONS are realistic
  - a. A man is quick to “give-up” if he doesn’t feel he can “keep-up”
  - b. A man is driven with the desire to please his wife
    - (1). He wants his wife to be IMPRESSED with him
    - (2). He will naturally look to those who notice his efforts
2. She needs to acknowledge the PRESSURES he faces for her / family
  - a. This enable him to appreciate them more!
  - b. It gives him further MOTIVATION to labor for his family
3. Take CAREFUL notice of his efforts to please
  - a. Don’t allow yourself to criticize his attempts
  - b. In this case, the thought truly should count!

B. A happy husband is a husband who knows he pleases his wife

1. After marriage is not the time to play “hard to get”
2. A man will cherish a wife who is a REMINDER of his success
3. A discontented wife is a “BLOT” to her husband

*“Submitting yourselves one to another in the Fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church, and he is the Saviour of the Body. Therefore as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.”*



#### **IV. A HUSBAND DESPERATELY NEEDS A CONTENTED WIFE - PHP. 4:11**

- A. Again, she needs to form MANAGEABLE expectations
1. He needs to know SURE ways to please his wife
  2. He will be overrun with frustration if he cannot discern this
- B. He may judge the SUCCESS of their marriage by how “happy” his wife is
1. He does not want to “invest” in a LOST cause
  2. She needs to form OPTIMISTIC views of their conflicts (faith)
- C. A wife who refuses to be contented will likely LOSE her husband
1. Don't hold his past failure continually against him
  2. Give him “ROOM” to please you
  3. A wife who will not deal with discontentment will be discontented with God
  4. If she sees no good in him at all, odds are she is a big part of the problem
- D. How does she deal with discontentment? - I Tim. 6:6
1. Make sure she knows exactly what she is displeased about
    - Is it EMOTIONALLY motivated?
  2. Make it a point to praise her husband in SPECIFIC areas daily
  3. Give her expectations and her HUSBAND to God daily
  4. Openly confess to her husband her wrong in allowing discontentment
  5. Begin scriptural MEDITATION on contentment passages



#### **V. A HUSBAND DESIRES FREQUENT “LITTLE SURPRISES” - PRO. 8:12**

- A. Why is this important?
1. It keeps the marriage INTERESTING (variety is the “spice” of life)
  2. It will aid in the fight against BOREDOM
    - a. An idle mind truly is the “devils playground”
    - b. It gives him an excited interest in the marriage
    - c. A man is often more “given” to EXCITEMENT than his wife
  3. It encourages him more to invest in his family
- B. What are some basic ideas of “little surprises?”
1. Special MEALS (candlelight, all his favorites, etc...)
  2. “ADMIRATION” notes from his wife
  3. Develop ways to contribute to a hobby of his
  4. “FREE time” just for him (he can do just the things he wants to do)
  5. Behind the scenes sessions of “BUILDING UP” your husband!
  6. Surprise GIFTS (spending your money on him)
  7. Breakfast in bed
  8. Shoulder rubs, neck rubs, etc...

#### **VI. A HUSBAND PERIODICALLY NEEDS TIME ALONE - MAT. 14:23, JN. 6:15**

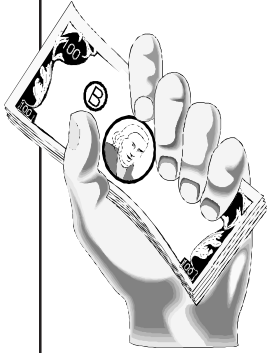
- A. A man has times when he just likes to be by himself
1. It is a time to “commune” with himself - Ps. 77:6
  2. A man will often be more introspective when alone
  3. It helps him face the PRESSURES he must
- B. It can be used as periodic “ESCAPES”
1. It should not take up a majority of his time
  2. He needs to know, though, that he can get away
- C. The wife should not RESENT this desire
1. Often, wives cannot relate to this desire
  2. He may become irritable and pressured if he cannot have this time



## VII. HE NEEDS A FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE WIFE - PRO. 10:4

A. In most cases the husband should be responsible for the family finances

1. He NEEDS this responsibility
  - a. It is a constant reminder for him to provide for his family
  - b. It should remind him, also, to provide for his family in all areas
  - c. Financial conflicts will often reveal character or spiritual problems
2. He is better EQUIPPED for this type of pressure
  - He is the one to whom the responsibility is given - I Tim. 5:8
3. A few “may be” scenarios
  - a. The husband may be better at mathematics and financial dealings
  - b. He may be better at warding off sales PRESSURE
  - c. He is most often the main wage earner
    - He may tend to value it more because of this



B. A financially irresponsible wife communicates several ideas

1. That she is UNCONCERNED about adding to his pressure
2. That she does not RESPECT his financial leadership
3. That she values “THINGS” more than her husband
4. That she should have more CONTROL over the family concerns

C. Money / finances are constant conflict makers in marriages

1. Mismanaged funds automatically create pressure
2. If the decision making is not structured, CHAOS ensues
  - a. The wife needs to be submissive even with the finances
  - b. She shows irreverence when she challenges for CONTROL of the finances

D. This does not mean “BLIND” submission

1. She still needs to HUMBLY share her cautions
2. She needs to assist with the financial planning

E. A husband cherishes a “thrifty” wife

1. A wife who manages her financial responsibility CAUTIOUSLY
  - a. She is good at “weeding out” waste
  - b. She is not given to extravagance - covetousness
  - c. Allow him to be extravagant with you
2. She strives to make BEST use of what they already have
  - She is resourceful to make things last
3. She seeks to make the home a PROFITABLE place - Pro. 31
  - a. This is one of the dangers of modern feminism
    - The home is no longer her first priority
  - b. The home is perfectly CUSTOMIZED for their family
    - It is not designed to “compete” with other households



F. COMMUNICATION is the key!

1. This is the most crucial aspect of any relationship
2. Fights over finances often result from a lack of open discussion
  - a. This is the importance of financial planning together
  - b. It needs to be a topic that can be discussed LOVINGLY

## VIII. A HUSBAND DESIRES AN ATTRACTIVE WIFE - SONG OF SOLOMON

A. To a man physical appearance is important

1. It is true, though, that there is not one true “ **IDEAL** ”
2. It was one of the traits that led him to you
3. Men are, most often, first to place a high value on her appearance
4. A wife should not **DOWNPLAY** this desire of his
  - A man is more motivated by what he sees
5. A man likes to be “proud” of his wife’s appearance

B. This does not mean she should overemphasize her appearance

1. Over attention to appearance usually leads to **UNATTRACTIVENESS**
  - a. Too much makeup gives an **ARTIFICIAL** look
  - b. Over attention on clothes may make one appear “gaudy”
2. She literally should do the **BEST** she can with what she has
  - a. Find out what your husband likes and dislikes
  - b. Let him become your “fashion designer” (if possible)



C. There are several aspects to beauty and attractiveness

1. Her behavior will have a bearing on her beauty - I Pet. 3
2. Often, basic beauty can be obtained by **NEATNESS**
  - Sloppiness is always unattractive
3. Natural beauty can be hindered by poor dress or **COLOR** schemes
  - a. “ **FEMININE** ” is always attractive
  - b. Avoid masculine dress styles
4. Natural beauty can be hindered by poor **HAIR** styles
5. Natural beauty can be hindered by **CONFLICTS** unresolved
  - Each will associate even the sight of the other with the problem
6. Natural beauty will be hindered by a **SAD** countenance
  - A “smiley” face is always better than a “pouty” or “bitter” face

## IX. THE HUSBAND NEEDS THE HOME TO BE A RETREAT - PRO. 24:15; 21:19; 25:24

A. Wives, don’t make his homecoming a time to **UNLOAD** your stress

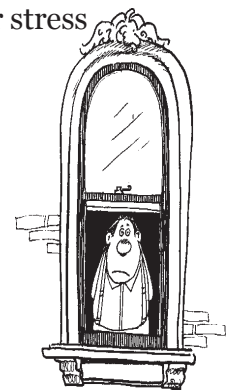
1. Strive to make it a cheerful occasion, daily
2. Allow him to unload his daily pressures first
3. Use cautious discernment in sharing the daily problems
  - If he is “stressed” put it off a while (if possible)

B. Keep the home neat and organized

1. A messy room is evidence of more **WORK** to be done
2. A messy room can cause or contribute to discouragement
  - It can cause physical and mental fatigue

C. Why should this be the wife’s main responsibility? (The home)

1. She is **CHALLENGED** to do so in Scripture - Titus 2:5 - “keepers at home”
  - a. To be “domestically inclined”
  - b. To be a “good house keeper”
  - c. To literally act as a “ **GUARD** ” of the home
2. He is less likely to find **SATISFACTION** in it
  - He is more prone to resent it when this responsibility rests on him





3. It is God's ideal picture of a woman - Pro. 31
  - a. She is to DELIGHT in her work - vs. 13
  - b. She organizes the PRACTICAL needs of the home - vs. 14
  - c. She PLANS ahead - vs. 18 (lamp goeth not out)
  - d. She is considerate of those in need - vs. 20
  - e. Her ACTIONS lead her husband to more honor before others - vs. 23
4. There is a modern trend to discourage women from homemaking
  - a. FAIRY TALES picture women whose ideal is luxury
  - b. It was a "punishment" for a woman to have to do the "chores"
  - c. Cinderella was "RESCUED" from a life of housework
  - d. Sleeping Beauty was hurt because of the lowly task of sewing
  - e. Disney's Beauty & the Beast, she's seeking more than a "provincial life"
5. There must be a constant battle to keep a correct focus on responsibilities!

**X. A HUSBAND NEEDS A WIFE WHOSE LOYALTY IS TO THE HOME FIRST - TITUS 2:5**

- A. That she would act as the home "UNIFIER"
  1. Seeking to keep the home operations smoothly
  2. That she would take the home SUCCESS as seriously as he does his vocation
  3. That she would keep him well informed as to the condition of the family on a day-by-day basis

- B. That she is more DEDICATED to the home
  1. Her home / family come before her FRIENDS
  2. Her home / family come before her JOB (if outside the home)

C. Why is this so significant?



1. He desires to live (give) his life for an honorable cause
  - a. If his own wife finds little interest in it, why sacrifice for it?
  - b. His wife can be the "DEFINER" of the worth of the cause
2. The wife / mother is more naturally inclined to be a "nurturer"
  - a. Without her influence, the family will lack in nurturing
  - b. What is nurturing?
    - (1). EDUCATION - Teaching life values and responses
    - (2). NOURISHING - Proper eating habits
    - (3). CHERISHING - Comfort and encouragement
    - (4). REARING - Detailed discipline (small areas)
    - (5). PROTECTION - Detailed cautions of dangers

3. It will be the greatest contribution to the success of the family!
4. Daily home operations rest mainly on the wife / mother

D. Modern feminism BELITTLES home responsibilities

1. There is no greater responsibility than the influencing of your children!!
  - a. Many want to delegate this to the TEACHERS / schools
  - b. Many want to delegate this to the CHURCH
  - c. Some even seek to delegate this to other family members
2. Many women hate housework because they do not know how to do it
  - a. There are tips / tricks to cleaning (Don Aslett's books)
  - b. There are tips / tricks to cooking
3. All of society rests on the shoulders of its FAMILIES
  - This is by no means a small or light responsibility!

**XI. HE NEEDS HIS WIFE TO TEACH THE CHILDREN TO RESPECT THEIR FATHER - PRO. 14:1**

- A. He cannot lead his family if his wife OPPOSES him
1. The children need to see unity between the parents
  2. She needs to support his decisions
- B. Children constantly “TEST” for how much control they can gain
1. They will use the power of MANIPULATION
  2. They will try to place one parent against the other
  3. Neither parent should “SIDE” with the children against the other
- C. The wife / mother is key in influencing the respect of the father
1. She needs to SPEAK well of their father
  2. They will be prone to ADMIRE what she does
  3. Children will use her COMPLAINTS as excuses to rebel
    - Used to justify wrong choices (relieves guilt)

**XII. A HUSBAND NEEDS A WIFE WHO CLEARLY NEEDS HIM - TITUS 2:4 (LOVE HIM)**

- A. No one desires to be viewed as just a CONVENIENCE
1. Being a “need” produces SECURITY in a relationship
  2. If one feels that they are needed they..
    - a. Will not fear rejection
    - b. Will not fear CRITICISM
    - c. Will not fear having unresolvable CONFLICTS
    - d. Will not fear being REPLACED
- B. He needs to see that she needs him in specific areas
1. That she needs his SPIRITUAL perception
  2. That she needs his MENTAL perspective
  3. That she needs his physical STRENGTH
  4. That she needs his FRIENDSHIP (affection)
  5. That she needs his LEADERSHIP
- C. She needs to show that she cannot imagine life without him
1. Life would be in turmoil without him
  2. He loves to hear how he is a BENEFIT to her life
  3. He loves to hear her recount her need for him in situations
    - a. That she could not have found SUCCESS if not for him
    - b. That she will always remember the times he RESCUED her
      - That he will always be her “knight in shining armor”



**XIII. HE NEEDS A WIFE WHO WILL ALWAYS “TALK-OUT” DISAGREEMENTS WITH HIM - EPH. 4:26**

- A. Never, never use the “SILENT TREATMENT” on your husband
1. Each is left to try to think the other’s thoughts
  2. It will only allow frustrations to rise
    - The absence of RESOLVE creates progressive tension
- B. If an argument ensues it must be properly ended!
1. Don’t walk away in frustration (in a “huff”)
    - a. It communicates DISDAIN for the other
    - b. In most cases, it is an IMMATURE response



- (1). There are a few occasions appropriate to walk away from
- (2). It is only appropriate if the other is “out of control”
  - You cannot “argue” with someone in a “rage”
2. In most cases it does take TWO to argue
  - a. Remember to use “SOFT” answers - Pro. 15:1
  - b. Both should always strive to avoid ANGRY tones
    - (1). A wife who angrily argues communicates disrespect
    - (2). A man who angrily argues communicates a lack of love
3. The situation must be dealt with THOROUGHLY
  - a. Make this a joint rule in your marriage
  - b. Better to “talk it out” all night than to leave it unresolved!
- C. Make it a point to try to always consider the other’s perspective
  1. First check for any MISUNDERSTANDINGS
  2. Don’t allow your focus to be only on your “rights”
  3. Don’t forget the responsibility to be SUBMISSIVE

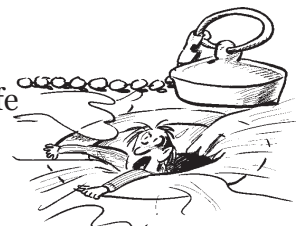


#### ***XIV. HE NEEDS A WIFE WHO SEEKS TO MAKE HIM SUCCESSFUL - PHP. 2:4***

- A. Part of her motivation to be blameless is for his reputation
  1. She does not want to have any part in his “downfall”
  2. She will not LISTEN to damaging gossip against her husband
- B. She needs to seek to take part in his goals
  1. She is willing to SACRIFICE to help him reach them
  2. She seeks to make his goals her goals
- C. She seeks to “build him up” when they are alone
  1. Our PERSONAL conversations are really most important
  2. After several years of marriage we really know each other
    - a. We know when we really mean what we say
    - b. This should be strategically used to build-up each other

#### ***XV. A HUSBAND NEEDS A LIFE FULL OF PURPOSE - PHP. 1:6***

- A. The “purpose” or “REASON” for something is his motivation
  1. He will be unmotivated without SPECIFIC purpose
  2. The wife needs to be very sympathetic to this need
    - He is miserable when he lacks purpose
- B. What “purposes” does he struggle with?
  1. What is the purpose for what he does? (reason for his efforts / struggles)
  2. Why is he where he is in life?
    - This may only be able to involve SPECULATION (hope based on faith)
  3. Why has he been placed on this earth?
    - What DIFFERENCE does his life make?
- C. He desperately needs GOALS for all aspects of his life
  1. He is likely to go nowhere without them
  2. He is likely to be discouraged with life without them
- D. He needs a wife who will..
  1. Look for and REMIND him how his “efforts” are “paying-off”
  2. Help him to try to “reason-out” God’s placement of him in life
  3. Help him establish goals and will follow them also





# 15 POINTS OF COUNSEL TO PARENTS

## I. THEY NEED TO KNOW THAT THEIR PARENTS LOVE EACH OTHER - COL.3:19; TITUS 2:4

A. Their SECURITY in the family is based upon this

1. Results of parents who demonstrate a lack of love for each other
  - a. FEARFUL children - Overwhelming and unnatural fears
  - b. An obvious DISLIKE for the other siblings (competition)
  - c. The children will begin to “take SIDES” with one of the parents
  - d. They will begin to look outside the family for AFFECTION
  - e. Aggressive / uncontrollable ANGER in some of the children
  - f. REBELLION in the children (unwilling to submit to the “rules”)
2. Children would rather see the parents LOVE each other than themselves
  - They feel helpless when the parents show disdain for each other

B. An offense for someone else is often greater than a personal one

1. The children will become EMBITTERED
2. They will feel FORCED to take sides
  - They know instinctively that there is a “right” and a “wrong”

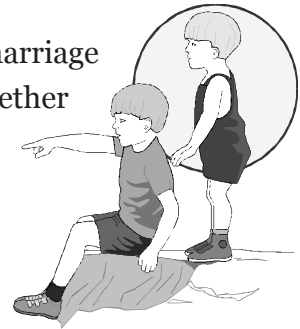
C. Children need to see affection demonstrated between the parents

CHILDREN LOVE TO SEE THESE!!

1. VERBAL affection - Openly reaffirming their love
2. PHYSICAL affection - Lots of hugs & kisses
3. ROMANTIC affection - Lots of “life” in the marriage
4. FRIENDLY affection - They enjoy being together

D. Unity in the marriage usually means unity in the family

1. This may not be true if the unity comes too late
2. Children fear when the parents ARGUE
  - They don’t know how to respond
3. The ultimate “terror” is separation or divorce



E. Children are likely to follow the parent’s EXAMPLE in their own marriages

1. This is usually the only “picture” they see
2. Sons may follow the example of the father
  - He needs to show his sons that he meets the needs of their mother
3. Daughters may follow the example of the mother
  - She needs to show her daughters that she meets the needs of their father

## II. CHILDREN NEED CONSISTENT DISCIPLINE - PRO. 13:24; 23:13-14; 22:6

A. Children are born with a SIN nature - Pro. 22:15; Psa. 51:5

1. Left to themselves they will make WRONG choices
2. Instinctive living is to live only for SELF and comfort
  - a. Undisciplined children will most often be angry and short-tempered
  - b. They will become “rights seekers” & “rights claimers”
3. Children will be naturally lured to that which will HARM them

“Train up” - To Choke,  
to narrow their options!

B. They must learn that there are consequences to their decisions & actions

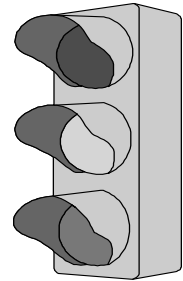
1. We are free to do as we wish, but not to choose the CONSEQUENCES
2. They need to learn that PAIN is associated with disobedience
3. They need to learn the basic “cause & effect” sequences in life
  - a. If they will not obey their parents, they will not obey GOD
  - b. If they practice LYING to their parents they will with God & others
  - c. Children who “lose control” become ADULTS who “lose control”
    - They may need to see examples of what they do not want to become
  - d. They may have to answer to the “LAW” if they don’t to their parents
4. They need to know their life QUALITY & length depend on their obedience

C. The standards need to be clear and consistent!

1. Obscure standards only create FRUSTRATION
2. Inconsistent discipline creates CONFUSION
  - It can even communicate hypocrisy
3. Over-correction creates FEAR & rebellion

D. The basic process to disciplining a child (a structural overview)

1. CONFRONT the wrong (get the clear facts)
  - This is important to dealing with the situation appropriately
2. Clearly demonstrate DISAPPOINTMENT first
  - a. Demonstrate grief in their choice to do wrong
  - b. This may involve a level of anger, but never rage (loss of emotional control)
3. Get them to CONFESS their wrong (to God / parent)
  - a. This is crucial to properly dealing with GUILT
  - b. This is crucial in the process of breaking their will
4. Pronounce SENTENCE
  - a. Communicate grief in having to administer
  - b. Reaffirm why it must be done
    - As a loving parent you must
  - c. Periodically show them mercy!
    - This is an excellent way to demonstrate God’s mercy to us
5. Administer the “PAIN”
  - a. Remember, an angry hand is apt to miss the “target”
  - b. Make it appropriate to fit the “crime”
6. Recount the offense / disappointment / grief
  - It is important that this whole process be very clear!
7. Demonstrate affections and ACCEPTANCE
  - a. A hug will often do the job
  - b. Sharing a similar failure from your own life
  - c. Reaffirm your love for them
8. Have them make RESTITUTION as needed
  - a. This may involve returning something taken
  - b. It may involve replacing something broken
  - c. And it may involve their confession to the one offended

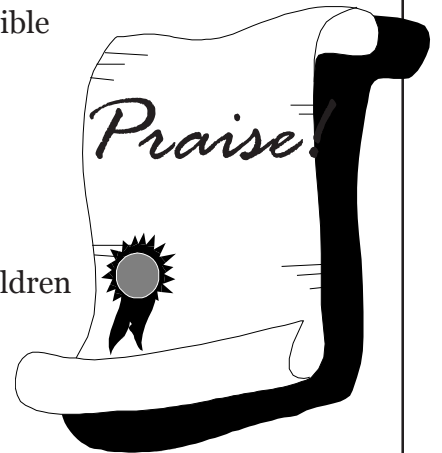


E. A few ideas of discipline techniques

1. Taking a period of time to show GRIEF & disappointment
2. Removing some of their PRIVILEGES
3. Having them openly CONFESS their wrong to those offended
4. Spanking - Not for every offense
  - a. Inappropriately could cause the child harm
  - b. Too much can callous the child to this form of discipline

**III. CHILDREN NEED REGULAR, DETAILED PRAISE - EPH. 6:4**

- A. The praise of parents is the main MOTIVATION of children
1. They will find most of their “purpose” in this praise
  2. They will do all they can to get it
    - They may try too hard if they are “under encouraged”
- B. Praise lets them know how they can PLEASE their parents
1. This will actually provide them with much SECURITY
  2. Praise is a vital part of discipline (teaching)
    - a. Don't just chasten when they do wrong (more to parenting than correction)
    - b. Clearly demonstrate that you SEE their efforts to please you
  3. Do not underestimate their desire to be NOTICED
- C. Make it a point to specifically praise each child daily
1. Try to emphasize individual displays of good CHARACTER
  2. Try not to emphasize that which they are not responsible
    - Such as their physical appearance
  3. Parents should praise the children to each other
    - Let the children hear this (overhear)
  4. What are some areas to look for?
    - a. QUICK obedience
    - b. Kindness even around “MEAN” children
    - c. SHARING their things
    - d. Interest in the things of GOD
    - e. Neatness or cleanliness
    - f. The demonstration of INITIATIVE
    - g. When they obey with no AUTHORITY around
    - h. Standing ALONE for the right
  5. Children desperately desire to IMPRESS their parents
    - They will know if the admiration is sincere



◆

*The praise of parents is one of the greatest cravings of a child. It is their greatest motivator. It is their greatest achievement. Wisely used as a precise tool in the hand of a discerning parent, it becomes one of the most vital means to “bring up a child in the way they should go!”*