



great marriages don't just happen

Part 1 – The Core Need of a Woman Is Love

(1 Peter 3:7)

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I. THE FOUNDATION OF A LASTING MARRIAGE IS BUILT UPON **TWO** KEY PRINCIPLES.
(Ephesians 5:22-25)

- A. To **submit** means to voluntarily place another person's needs and desires above your own. It means to willingly take second place.
- B. To **love** means to voluntarily give yourself away to meet another person's needs and desires in the place of your own. It means to willingly take second place.

Ephesians 5:21: "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

- C. God used two different words that have the same foundational meaning but two words that apply that meaning differently, according to the greatest **need** of their mate.
 - 1. A husband has an innate need to be **respected** by his wife as the servant leader in his home.

Matthew 20:25-28 (NLT) ²⁵ "Jesus called them together and said, "You know that in this world kings are tyrants, and officials lord it over the people beneath them. ²⁶ But among you it should be quite different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant..."

2. A wife has an innate need to be loved, to be special, to be cherished by her husband.

Ephesians 5:33 (NKJV) “Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

3. Love is the central need of a woman. Respect is the central need of a man.

D. The basis of love and respect is selflessness; the act of putting your mate above yourself. That is a command by God for both the husband and the wife. The key to our success in marriage is to become “mate - focused” not 'self-focused.

E. Why do marriages fail? They become “me - focused”.

(Love and Respect by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs)

II. GOD DIRECTS HUSBANDS TO EXPRESS LOVE TO THEIR WIVES IN THREE DISTINCT WAYS. (1 Peter 3:7)

- A. Treat your wife with honor. (1 Peter 3:7)

“Honor is a decision we make to place a high value, worth, and importance on another person, viewing him or her as a priceless gift, and granting that person a position in our lives worthy of great respect. And love involves putting that decision into action.” (The Gift of Honor by Gary Smalley & John Trent)

- B. Treat your wife with understanding. (1 Peter 3:7)

1 Peter 3:7 “You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman...” (NASB)

1. The verse is saying: Men, you have more muscles than your wife. Don't treat your wife like she is just another man. Be careful and treat her softly and delicately because she is a woman.
2. We can't treat our wives with understanding if we don't make an effort to understand them.

- C. Treat your wife as an equal. (1 Peter 3:7)

III. GOD GIVES MEN A WARNING. (1 Peter 3:7)

Notes:
