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As a Wife -- This is My Responsibility

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AS A WIFE--THIS IS MY RESPONSIBILITY
Proverbs 18:22
I. Describe a marriage.
A. Mother is seated.
B. Bride enters on Dad's arm with special smile for him.
C. Preacher starts--"Dearly beloved" and then "I pronounce you--"
D. Veil is turned, a kiss, a smile to the folks--and they leave--
E. To live "happily ever after?" All problems solved!
1. No, it takes effort.
II. Marriage is Honorable.
Heb. 13:4 "Marriage is honorable in all, and
A. God started it.
   Gen. 2:22 "And the rib which the Lord
   Gen. 2:18 "It is not good that man
1. Life's most meaningful relationship.
   Mk. 10:9 "What therefore God hath joined
B. Man doesn't so regard it
   1. 2 out of 5 in divorce.
   2. In teenages one out of 2 fails.
C. It's hoped as we review the wife's part it may help strengthen ties.
1. I'm taking much material from Marge Green's book "Martha, Martha."
2. Marriage exists for:
   a. Companionship--do you ever talk.
   b. Fulfillment of God given desires.
   c. Procreation of human race.
Jer. 29:6 "Take ye wives and beget
III. Let the wife have these things:
A. The joy of a continuing honeymoon.
   1. He courted the hand of a pure lady. Keep
      his respect by honorableness.
   2. He gave her small gifts, opens car door,
      helps with coat, picks up what she drops,
      waits for her as she makes him---and she
      sits on the throne of his heart.
   3. But they say "I do" and he gets careless
      ---so does she in her physical appearance.
B. Let her love her husband.
   Eph. 5:33 "And the wife see that she revere
   1. She must respect him.
   2. She won't if he is not the stronger partner.
   3. Don't marry thinking to change them.
      Any change that comes let it be from bad
      to good and not via demanding, superior
      attitude.
   4. Let him be first---above clubs, etc.
C. She must be subject to her husband.
   Col. 3:18 "Wives submit yourselves unto
   I Pet. 3:1 "Likewise, ye wives be in
   1. Man is the head.
   2. He needs to love, protect and cherish
      her.
   3. Note the subjection is "as fit in the Lord.
D. She lives in such a way she deserves
   respect.
   1. Let her be feminine:
      I Pet. 3:4 "But let it be the hidden man of
a. Dress. -

b. Speech -- not loud and harsh or vulgar.

c. Manners.

2. Let her trust -- not being jealous.

3. Let her refuse to nag and be contentious.
   a. All God left Job was a nagging wife.
      Prov. 25:24 "It is better to dwell in the
      Prov. 19:13 "A foolish son is the calamity
      Judges 16:16 "And it came to pass, when

E. She strives for oneness in marriage.

1. There is a physical side.
   I Cor. 7:2-5 "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication.

2. The relations are not shameful or dirty but God given.

3. Appetite is not wrong.

4. Also remember the in-laws. Love them.

F. Let her be a homemaker.

1. Here she excells--here she belongs.

2. It has its side of hard work.

3. Have the right attitude--its beautiful to be needed by someone.

4. One said "Women don't keep their husbands because they don't keep their homes."

5. Let neatness, cleanliness, order in finances prevail. (To "push" the husband financially is to invite heart attacks)

IV. Let's labor to make our marriage more meaningful.

A. Are we tearing down or building up?
   Prov. 14:1 "Every wise woman buildeth her
B. Do we treasure what we've found?
Prov. 18:22 "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a
TEENAGE PREFERENCE

It's a good American pasttime to ask questions about ourselves, to survey ourselves. Not long ago, a survey was made by Purdue University in which boys were asked what sort of girl they would like to marry. A few surprising answers or opinions were uncovered, such as:

- Physical attractiveness (beauty) interested only 49% of the boys while pride in personal appearance and manners interested 89%.

- Most considered vital the ability of the girl to cook and keep house. (MOTHERS: are you cheating your girls by not training them in this important aspect of their future?)

- Girls who wear excessive makeup, heavy eye shadow, far-out hair styles, short shorts or revealing fashions flunked the test, for it seems the boys like the girls to be pretty without "looking like clowns."
MARY JANE, aged six, was looking at photographs of her parents' wedding. Her father described the ceremony and tried to explain its meaning. Suddenly the light dawned.

“Oh,” Mary Jane exclaimed. “Is that when you got Mother to come to work for us?”
It's pretty obvious that
A man who misses his wedding anniversary catches it later.
A husband can stop his wife spending too much on gloves by buying her a beautiful ring.
My curiosity was aroused recently in a discussion of the fact that 17 per cent of all mutual fund shareholders are women. This led to a bit of research that uncovered these interesting facts about two subjects we all like—women and money: Approximately two-thirds of the nation's wealth is in the name of women... Housewives hold 25 per cent of all savings accounts... Approximately 59 per cent of all housewives own life insurance... Of the 17 million shareholders owning securities listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 1962, 27 per cent were housewives (the single largest occupational group among shareholders)... Keith Funston, president of the Exchange, added this comment: "Besides showing that there are more women shareholders than men, our studies indicate that investing is a family decision... that women often have an important influence on family investment decisions."

A MAN'S WORLD?

WHO SAYS IT'S A MAN'S WORLD?
Under his forming hands, a creature grew,
Man like, but different sex; so lovely fair,
That what seemed fair in all the world, seem now
Mean, or in her summed up in her constrain, and in her looks...
Grace was in her steps, heaven in her eye,
In every gesture, dignity and love.

(from Milton's PARADISE LOSS).
TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR WIVES

1. Honor thine own womanhood that thy days may be long and happy in the house which thy husband provideth thee.
2. Expect not thy husband to give thee as many luxuries at first as thy father hath given thee after many years of hard labor and economies.
3. Forget not the virtue of good humor for verily all that a man hath he will give for a woman's smile.
4. Thou shalt not nag.
5. Thou shalt seek well to please thy husband.
6. Remember that the frank approval of thy husband is worth more to thee than the sidelong glances of many strangers.
7. Forget not the grace of cleanliness and good dressing.
8. Keep thy home with all diligence for out of it will come the joys of thine old age.
9. Permit no one to assure thee that thou art having a hard time of it.
10. Commit thy ways to the Lord thy God and thy children shall rise up and call thee blessed.