

Respect:

High or special regard -
admiration, reverence.



Respect is an important Biblical attribute; we are to respect or reverence God, our Creator. It is also an important aspect of marriage. Yes, Ephesians 5:33 commands wives to *respect* their husbands and husbands to *love* their wives, but a marriage without *mutual respect* simply will not be a testimony to God's love for humanity. Husbands are commanded to love their wives - Jesus gave us the example of what love is - *giving* of one's self to the point of dying for another. This includes *giving* respect to their wives. Folks, if husbands and wives do not demonstrate their love for each other by word and deed, do they really understand God's love? If they do not treat each other with courtesy and respect, do they have the love of God in their hearts?

Respecting your spouse means that you treat him or her with consideration and courtesy. That you do not call them names, badger them, treat them in insulting or demeaning ways. Respecting your spouse means that you value them as a person, accept their differences, and *hear* what they say without judgment or criticism. Living according to God's Word involves doing these things even if they do not do them for you. Yes, sin must be addressed, but even when confronting sin, the Bible commands us to do it with love and *respect*.

Show respect to your spouse - no matter what. He or she is a child of God - a prince or princess of the King of the Universe. Hold your spouse in high regard, demonstrate admiration and even reverence for them. Not making them equal to God, but to esteem them a God's child. Our society tends to demonstrate total disrespect for those who differ with them. Our challenge is to demonstrate respect for *all* people no matter what.

Helpful Resources:

Fortified Marriages Resource page: www.fortifiedmarriages.com

Book to check out: *Love & Respect* by Emerson Eggerich

Article to check out: *The Importance of Mutual Respect in Marriage* by David Hawkins

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