

---

---

# The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

---

---

A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at  
2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri  
Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)

Volume 10, Issue 43

Evangelist and Editor:  
Dempsey Collins

Nov. 8, 2009

Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30.

## Husbands: Love Your Wives

by Dick Blackford

### NOURISH

The word translated nourisheth (Eph. 5:29) means “to nourish up to maturity”. It describes the great care that he takes for his own flesh. He supplies everything needed. He does this, not just one time, but with frequent concern. This is the attitude a man should have toward his wife.

### CHERISH

This means “to keep warm, as of birds covering their young with their feathers...metaphorically, to cherish with tender love, to foster with tender care”. This word depicts man as the protector. But he protects, not out of mere obligation, but with a desire to do so. Just as the young birds need their mother’s protection, this implies that the husband is better suited for the role of protector and that the wife is inadequate for the job and needs his protection. Remember, “her desire shall be to her husband”, Gen. 3:16. This cherishing is not accomplished as a one time act. He must maintain the marriage – daily.

### THE GOLDEN RULE

Very few males are undernourished or uncherished. We see to that. But when we deny those simple things that would make a wife happy, while indulging in those things that please ourselves, and when we unnecessarily and thoughtlessly add to her burdens, how can it be said that we nourish and cherish her? What Paul has done is simply stated the golden rule as it applies in the marriage relationship. When a man’s wife complains about the way he is treating her, he should ask himself: Would I like this kind of treatment (or lack of it) if I was in her situation? Why should one’s attitude change after marriage?

Two lovers walking down the street;  
She trips; he murmurs, “Careful Sweet!”  
Now wed, they tread the self-same street;  
She trips; he growls, “Pick up your feet”.

### HONOR HER – I PETER 3:7

He is to esteem or value her. The value of a virtuous woman is “far above rubies”, Prov. 31:10. She is a “crown” to her husband, Prov. 12:4. A “prudent wife is from the Lord”, Prov. 19:14. A godly woman is “of great price”, I Pet. 3:3-4. All wives may not fit this description, but a husband has a lot to do with what she becomes.

One reason a wife may become discouraged and develop a low self-esteem or turn sour on the marriage is because, no matter how hard she tries, she never gets any recognition. Her feeling is “When I do something good, he never notices or remembers it; when I make a mistake, he always sees it and never forgets it.” Generally, a man is honored by the public, his boss, and fellow employees when they behold his work. He receives compliments and recognition. But the woman who majors in being a wife and mother does not receive praise for her work – unless it comes from her husband. The public does not always know about the things she does behind the scenes. “...Her husband...praiseth her, ‘Many daughters have done virtuously but thou excellest them all,’” Prov. 31:28-29. She may not do everything right and he should not expect perfection unless he is willing to give it. However, when she does well it deserves recognition. Peter said so – “Honor her”. Such praise for the good things she does says as much about him as it does about her.

### **KNOWING HER “LIKES” AND “DISLIKES”**

A couple can practice the golden rule by learning each other’s preferences. One of the best ways to find these out is to ask. Since people have different preferences, it would be impossible to state them here. However, the author is pretty sure the list will include some of the following:

#### **LIKES**

1. Thoughtfulness when she does well or looks nice (sincere compliments, remembering special occasions, a gift given without begrudging it, etc.)
2. Some free time for herself and some money for personal items, etc.
3. Communication with her husband; consideration of her views on important decisions, especially those which affect her.
4. Being helped with the children, particularly in emergencies or when she is under time pressure.

#### **DISLIKES**

1. A man who shirks responsibilities; won’t make decisions.
2. Unnecessary burdens placed on her by the helplessness of the husband.
3. Being treated with indifference; deprived of adult conversation when most of her time is spent alone or with the children.
4. A husband who becomes a recluse while living under the same roof; one who is married to a TV set or a hobby, etc.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF LITTLE THINGS**

Some of the things that please a wife and make her radiant and enjoyable to be with seem unimportant to a man, so much so, that he may discount their importance entirely. For example, most men would rather have a good, hot, home-cooked dinner. But inviting her out to a nice restaurant says, “I enjoy being with you even if it costs me my time and money”. Or, a present given to her is tangible proof that she was on his mind even while they were away from each other. And, a sincere compliment shows he is attentive and notices her. “It is more blessed to give than to receive” applies as much in a marriage as anywhere. Abraham told Sarah, “I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon...”, Gen. 12:11. Is it any wonder that she willingly subjected herself to him? “Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose children ye now are, if ye do well...”, I Pet. 3:6. Sarah is an example for Christian wives today. Abraham is an example for husbands.

---

#### **News and Notes:**

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

*“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16*