

A Husband's Test Of Love

Husbands or future husbands, in this article I offer you a challenge to self-evaluate your love for your wife.

Now men, let's be honest about this, maximum of 10 points for each answer. If you finish with 100 points you don't need to read the rest of the article.

Answer yes or no. In the last month did you:-

- 1 Compliment your wife in front of the children or friends?
- 2 Ask your wife for her opinion on a decision you have to make?
- 3 Open the door for your wife?
- 4 Give your wife some money and tell her to spend it only of herself?
- 5 Send your wife some flowers?
- 6 Spend an evening with your wife with the television switched off?
- 7 Tell your wife how much you love her?
- 8 Study God's Handbook for Life, the Christian Bible, with your wife?
- 9 Prayed for your wife to the Creator God?
- 10 Asked God to guide you as her husband?

The two words that best characterize a man's responsibility to his wife are "*to care*".

Often we idealise or romanticise love but when we want tangible evidence of love it must involve care.

Ask almost any woman what she wants most from her husband above all else and you will more than likely hear "*I just want him to care for me.*"

Ask her what best communicates a husband's care, and invariably she will say "*it's the little things that he does for me*".

The Little Things

Since little things seldom come naturally to us men, try these for starters:

Communication

Talk to your wife, share your thoughts with her. Discuss your problems with her. Don't keep secrets from her.

Keep the lines of communication always open.

Try to understand your wife, her needs, her moods, her problems.

Couples who bring each other up-to-date on the events of the day are showing they like each other and enjoy each other's company.

Teamwork

Marriage creates a team, with or without children.

Work together, stand together. Present a united front.

Don't let other family members or outsiders divide you.

Politeness

Be polite. Treat your wife with the same courtesy you would a respected friend.

Don't do anything to embarrass her, especially in front of others.

Your attitude towards your wife, how you treat her, will influence how others treat her. Your children especially will follow your lead. Treat your wife as special and others will also.

Help

Help your wife. Look for ways to help her with her work or problems.

Ask her what you can do to help her.

Surprise her at times by helping when you are not asked.

Activities

Plan activities that you can share. This does not mean you must share all activities. You need some of your own as does your wife.

Time

Use it wisely. Save some time when you can be together alone. Don't let anything totally monopolise your time. Take advantage of quiet moments alone. If the children are "*down*" asleep and the moon is "*up*", why not grab a kiss or two under the stars? Watch out though, it can become habit forming!!

Money

Money is a root of a lot of problems in marriage. Discuss money, where it comes from, how much there is, how it is to be spent or saved, and the responsibility of each spouse in dispensing it. Keep a budget. Each partner should have some money, even if it is only a small amount, to spend any way he or she pleases.

Priorities

God comes first, but your wife comes second, before all others, before all things. If you show by your actions, by decisions you make daily that you always consider her desires, her feelings, her comfort and protection, you will build a long, long-lasting trust and confidence into your relationship.

Faith

This is the cement that can hold your marriage together when it may seem to be crumbling. Pray daily, often together and for each other. Don't neglect Bible study with your wife. The Christian Bible truly is the Handbook For Life. Start by reading **Psalms 139:13-18** [NIV].

God reveals in His Word the special ways He thinks about each individual human being. Discuss these verses, then have each person list and share two qualities that are special about each family member. Allow follow-up questions and be prepared for a memorable time.

Love

Hug your wife often each day. Hugging does more than demonstrate affection. It actually seems to keep people healthy. It does wonders for my family when I hug and kiss my wife.

But don't expect actions or gifts alone to show your love. Verbalise it. Don't let a day go by without saying "*I love you*" several times and let the last words at night before you go to sleep be "*I love you*".

Do you remember how you felt the first time you saw your wife by candlelight? The first time you kissed? The first time you said "*I love you so much*"? Those firsts cannot be repeated, but the romance they represent glows and should glow forever.

King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, filled an entire book of The Bible, the Song of Solomon, with the loving compliments he paid to his wife and the romantic responses they aroused in her. You are not too old and it's not too late or too soon to do what Paul exhorted in **Ephesians 5:25** [NIV] "*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.*"

This is a big challenge. Pick one or two areas mentioned in this article and determine a specific plan for action for today of this week.

Men, make the time to do it. You can't afford not to! Your wife will love you for it.