



R-E-S-P-E-C-T! Find Out What It Means To Me!

by Deborah Biddle

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"... and the wife must respect her husband." -Ephesians 5:33b

I love tulips! In fact, they are my favorite flower. One of the reasons I love them is because they are among the first flowers to bloom in early spring. It is as if they cannot wait to burst forth and greet the world. In vibrant colors with petals lifted up toward the sun, toward God, they blossom in what seems like clusters of worship ... reverence ... and respect to the One who created and gave them life. They are yearning flowers, always bending towards the sun, searching for the light. They remind me of how we are, seeking the Son and searching for the Light. If tulips bring me such delight, I can only imagine the joy they bring God as they burst forth among the first in spring to give Him praise! How much more blessed is God when we spring forth, like tulips, to be among the first to worship Him? I believe that God is pleased when we reverence Him. After all, it is the proper response to who He is. No created thing, not even a tulip, should outshine the awe we have for our Lord. He is just that special! He deserves our honor, esteem, admiration, praise and respect.

Respect is an interesting thing. Most of us operate from the perception that we will give respect to a person when they demonstrate that they deserve respect or when a person first shows us respect. It seems logical. However, in marriage that is a misconception. Respect is mutual. The scriptures teach that we are to submit to or respect one another out of reverence to Christ. Further, the Bible teaches that a wife must respect her husband. It's not an option; it's a commandment we are to execute as unto the Lord. Before you ladies start to raise an eyebrow while reading this, take a deep breath and read on. In the article below, Lloyd will share what respect means to him. After reading it, I challenge you to discuss respect with your own husband. Prayerfully examine how well you do in this area. Ask yourself the following questions:

1. Do I speak to my husband in a condescending manner?
2. Do I treat my husband as respectfully as I treat other men I respect?
3. Do I speak disrespectfully about my husband in public or to my friends and family?
4. When I talk to my husband, does my body language suggest that I do not respect my husband?
5. Do I try to manipulate my husband by being verbally abusive or overly

emotional?

6. Do I bring up my husband's shortcomings to others?
7. Do I inappropriately contradict my husband in public?
8. Do I undermine my husband in front of our children?
9. Do I mentally or verbally negatively compare my husband to other men?
10. Am I obeying God by respecting my husband?
11. Do I listen carefully to my husband?
12. Do I value my husband's opinions and wishes?

The questions above are by no means all inclusive. However, they may highlight for you, as a God-honoring wife, areas in which to grow. In today's culture, the notion of respecting your husband is a dying art. But, with God's strengthening grace, we can do it. We can choose to show our husbands respect. Regardless of our circumstances, it is a heart attitude that, at its root, seeks to ultimately worship God, to do all to His glory. As wives, we can be just like tulips springing forth toward the Light to be among the first to worship the Lord by honoring His command to respect our husbands.