

TENDER WARRIOR

When God created man he gave him the backbone of a railroad tie, so that he would be resolute in standing up for what he believes in. He was given the strength of a warrior so that he can stand toe to toe and defeat the onslaughts of the enemy. He was given the heart of God so that he would unconditionally love those he was given stewardship of.

Everything changed through the fall and the strength that God gave man to provide for and protect was used to intimidate and manipulate others for his selfish purposes. He lost his moral compass and was tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine and cultural change and instead of acting as the head of his home he became passive and abdicated his responsibilities to his wife and family.

God's order for the family.

God created Man first and gave him the responsibility of stewardship.

Genesis 2:15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

The purpose of the woman.

Genesis 2:18 And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.

Some have read this verse and thought that God gave woman to man because he was incompetent and he couldn't make it on his own. (Keys)

It all boils down to God's nature of love.

God made mankind not because he was in great need of love but because his nature is love and love can only be expressed through the context of relationships.

God made Eve because Adam, like God was created for relationships.

Roles of a man/father.

1) Take responsibility.

God made man first, not because he was more valuable than Eve. They had equal value, yet different roles.

As the first of God's creation he was the responsible party. When we think about the fall of man we jokingly blame Eve. If it wasn't for Eve where would we be? In the garden.

Who did God come to first after they ate the fruit?

Genesis 3:9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

Nowhere in the Bible does God hold Eve responsible for sin.

Romans 5:12 NKJV Therefore, just as through one **man** sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

The first sin was not the disobedience of Eve, it was the passivity of Adam.

The greatest gift you can give your kids is to love their mother.

Responsibility to care for your wife:

1) Love your wife

Ephesians 5:22-28 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is **head** of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her**, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

The unconditional love that a husband gives to his wife is a physical expression of the love that Christ has for his church.

Unconditional love is supernatural: it shows value in spite of behavior.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 MSG Love never gives up. Cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head, Doesn't force itself on others, Isn't always "me first," Doesn't fly off the handle, Doesn't keep score of the sins of others, Doesn't revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.

The Lord spoke to me very clearly about how this message can be perceived if we look through our natural eyes. It is easy for the wives to take this list and see it as a score card and see and focus on her husband's weakness.

(My story) The book and Phoenix.

You can't change your spouse. If you will allow God to change you then the way your spouse responds to you will change.

Here is the key.

2 Corinthians 5:14-16 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. 16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.

We need to see our spouse after the spirit and not after the flesh. If we are not careful we focus on the old man/woman, the part that is dead instead of the new man/woman that is in Christ.

Find the things that your spouse is doing right and focus on that.

2) To understand our wives

1 Peter 3:7 NKJV Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Peter instructs us to do three things.

When I first heard this I thought it meant that we should understand how she processes life.

Albert Einstein's first passion was for human behavior so he began to study psychology, he decided to do his thesis on unlocking the amazing power of the female mind, after months of dead ends and confusion he switched to being a theoretical physicist because he realized it would be easier to understand time and space than the female mind.

To understand means to be considerate: showing kindly awareness or regard for another's feelings, circumstances, etc.

Husbands we need to celebrate and value our differences, have empathy towards her and help her process her feelings and circumstances.

Women process through the lens of relationships. They need to share their feelings and emotions.

This means that we have to develop the skill of active listening and focused attention.

Active listening means that you ask thoughtful follow-up questions that help her process.

Focused attention means that you are giving her your undivided attention.

3) Honor your wife.

Honor: to regard or treat (someone) with admiration and respect: to give special recognition to high respect, as for worth, merit, or rank.

Honor is how you show value and worth.

(Two violins)

4) Live as co-heirs with your wife.

This means that whatever God wants to accomplish through you, your wife is an important part of the process.

Two unique people with one common goal.

God created your wife different on purpose. In order to accomplish God's purposes, you need her unique gifts, strengths, perspectives and experiences.

Lack of honor can hinder your prayers.

When your wife feels honored your home is filled with love, joy and peace which is the presence of God.