

What Causes the Spirit of a Wife to React to the Spirit of Her Husband

“Don’t delude yourselves: no one makes a fool of God! A person reaps what he sows. Those who keep sowing in the field of their old nature, in order to meet its demands, will eventually reap ruin; but those who keep sowing in the field of the Spirit will reap from the Spirit everlasting life.” Galatians 6:7-8

Most important!

1. **Awareness that she is not first place in his life - Eph. 5:25**

SOW: He is preoccupied with work, possessions, activities, ministry or people.

REAP: She doubts his love and becomes insecure

“As for husbands, love your wives, just as the Messiah loved the Messianic Community indeed, gave himself up on its behalf” (Eph 5:25).

How to Make Our Wives First Place

- **Establish a periodic date night** - the husband takes the responsibility to get a sitter, have the funds, pick the restaurant, etc.
- **Make surprise appointments for lunch with her**
- **Give occasional calls during the day or send a card in the mail**
- **Help with the dishes (most important!), kids, laundry, etc.**
- **Allow direct access to her phone calls**
- **Prepare yourself for the most exciting part of her day** - pray on the way home that God will help you yield your rights (your right to relax, your right to eat, your right to rest, your right to have quiet time, your right to watch the game, your right to not be bothered, your right to be off duty, etc.)
- **Meet her deepest need - intimate conversation.** The key is listening. The best time is after the kids are in bed. She doesn’t need quick answers, she really just needs you to listen attentively to her.
- **Purpose to have good manners** - It has been said that lack of manners in husbands cause wives to fantasize about other man that will show such respect! Here are some pointers:
 - Call home if you are going to be late, for any reason, especially dinner
 - Properly introduce her when meeting others
 - Open doors
 - Help her with her coat
 - Move chairs for her
 - Never interrupt her or correct her in public

The Biggie!

2. **Lack of Spiritual Leadership - Eph. 5:23**

SOW: He shows lack of interest in being the spiritual leader.

REAP: She feels insecure; unable to place full confidence in him. She therefore seeks spiritual leadership from others!

“Because the husband is head of the wife, just as the Messiah, as head of the Messianic Community, is himself the one who keeps the body safe” (Eph. 5:23). What does the Lord mean when he compares us to a head? Is it that we do all the thinking? NO! We only have 1 CPU, our wives have 4 CPUs so obviously this is not the case. He means and implies that we are servant leaders. Leaders of what? Spiritual leaders, that’s what. Wives wait and secretly hope and long for someone to be a spiritual leader!

What are Evidences of an active spiritual leader?

- **He teaches God's principles in his family** - He takes the Shema as it was intended, literally. Moshe was speaking to the men when he said: *"and you are to teach them carefully to your children. You are to talk about them when you sit at home, when you are traveling on the road, when you lie down and when you get up."* (Deut 6:7)
- **He takes the lead at prayer times** - *"You husbands, likewise, conduct your married lives with understanding. Although your wife may be weaker physically, you should respect her as a fellow-heir of the gift of Life. If you don't, your prayers will be blocked"* (1 Peter 3:7) Keep a prayer list for your own wife and children. You want to demonstrate that God is real, that He is a BIG God and that He cares for them (and you care enough to pray for their needs and infirmities)
- **Have regular quiet times before the Lord demonstrating that you have a heart after God** - *"I love those who love me; and those who seek me will find me."* (Prov 8:17) What legacy can we really leave our children? I want to leave them with the "Lost Legacy" of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob-the All-Powerful One! What do you think happens to our children when they see that we make fellowship with God a priority?
- **Memorizing Scripture consistently, especially in our areas of weakness!** - teaches children our own need for God. Do you need God in your daily life? *"I treasure your word in my heart, so that I won't sin against you."* (Ps 119:11).
- **Share the Lord with others** - demonstrates that we are also sold out to the kingdom, so we also have a goal worth living and dying for!
- **Refusing to compromise on Scriptural convictions** - (another **Biggie!**) Listen to the Word given to us in Ezekiel *"I sought for a man among them who could build a barricade or stand in the break to oppose me on behalf of the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one."* (Ezek 22:30)

Two Major Marks of a Spiritual Leader

- √ A Man who seeks the Lord
- √ A Man who lives by spiritual convictions

3. Inadequate Preparation for Changes - wives need time to adjust emotionally

SOW: He does not give her time to rearrange her frame of reference for major adjustments. Where to worship should have priority before moving!

REAP: She becomes insecure; apprehensive and bitter

4. Unfavorable Comparisons with Other Women

SOW: He openly admires appearance or abilities of other women, which she lacks.

REAP: She is deeply hurt, becomes jealous and begins to reject herself.

"We don't dare class or compare ourselves with some of the people who advertise themselves. In measuring themselves against each other and comparing themselves with each other, they are simply stupid." (2 Cor. 10:12). When men compare unchangeable features, qualities and abilities it is devastating to her. This is the **WRONG** way to get your wife to change! Women's basic problem is one of jealousy, where men's basic problem is one of pride. What we should be encouraging one another to do is to develop character, the inward evidence of Yeshua's work in us!

5. Lack of Inner Discipline

SOW: He lacks discipline in anger and displays moral weakness and usually refuses to discuss it!

REAP: Her admiration and respect for him are greatly damaged.

When a man admires the physical appearance of other women he is really comparing his wife to something she cannot do anything about or change. It is like putting a knife in the wife's heart and emotions and she experiences it as if he was having an affair! Consider the following Scriptures

Prov 5:15-23

¹⁵Drink the water from your own cistern, fresh water from your own well. ¹⁶Let what your springs produce be dispersed outside, streams of water flowing in the streets; ¹⁷but let them be for you alone and not for strangers with you. ¹⁸Let your fountain, the wife of your youth, be blessed; find joy in her - ¹⁹a lovely deer, a graceful fawn; let her breasts satisfy you at all times, always be infatuated with her love. ²⁰My son, why be infatuated with an unknown woman? Why embrace the body of a loose woman? ²¹For ADONAI is watching a man's ways; he surveys all his paths. ²²A wicked person's own crimes will trap him, he will be held fast by the ropes of his sin. ²³He will die from lack of discipline; the magnitude of his folly will make him totter and fall.

Ps 66:18

Had I cherished evil thoughts, ADONAI would not have listened.

Prov 15:1

A gentle response deflects fury, but a harsh word makes tempers rise.

Colossians 3:1-6

*"So if you were raised along with the Messiah, then seek the things above, where the Messiah is **sitting at the right hand of God**. Focus your minds on the things above, not on things here on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with the Messiah in God. When the Messiah, who is our life, appears, then you too will appear with him in glory! Therefore, put to death the earthly parts of your nature—sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed (which is a form of idolatry); for it is because of these things that God's anger is coming on those who disobey him."*

6. Failure to Recognize and Express Appreciation for Special Little Attempts to Please Him

SOW: He is insensitive to special little things that she does for him. *She needs verbal praise!*

REAP: She seeks admiration and praise from others; loses creativity; and seeks outside interests.

Prov 31:28-31

Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

7. Attempts to Correct in Public

SOW: He uses jokes or cutting remarks in public to emphasize something he has been trying to change in her.

REAP: She feels her self-worth is damaged, and reacts with a desire to retaliate in public.

In 1 Peter 3:7 we are urged to honor our wives: “*You husbands, likewise, conduct your married lives with understanding. Although your wife may be weaker physically, you should respect her as a fellow-heir of the gift of Life. If you don’t, your prayers will be blocked.*” The folly of a husband correcting his wife in public is that when he does he is criticizing himself! The Lord said that the husband and wife become one flesh (“*Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh*” Gen. 2:28). Also God holds the husband responsible to purify the wife by God’s Word! (In Ephesians 5:26 Scripture states: “*That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word*”). Thus the wife is actually part of the husband and she is a reflection of his care, his wisdom and his leadership! If he criticizes her in public he will usually reject her opinions and her input in his life!

UNEXPECTED CONSEQUENCE: it destroys friendships because others do not know how to respond!

8. Rejection of Her Opinion as Unimportant (Pilate’s wife in Matthew 27:19)

SOW: He evaluates her opinions from his larger frame of reference, vs. her immediate frame.

REAP: She is hurt and hindered from sharing cautions concerning his judgment or character.

When husbands are insensitive to wives promptings two things usually happen, that is, husbands lose twice! First he will reap BIG consequences for not listening and second he will damage the spirit of the marriage. God will actually tell a wife things He will not tell the husband. God designed it that way so that the husband will learn to listen to her cautions as they become ONE IN SPIRIT (which is the ultimate goal in marriage!).

Satan is capable of arranging circumstances in split second timing (cf. Job 1) and he is also capable of arranging circumstances so that it appears to be God (recall that Scripture tells us that Satan appears to be an angel of light). Now if God and Satan can both arrange circumstances, how do we know the difference? If in order to act, we have to violate or compromise (either a big or little compromise) any of God’s principles or standards to any degree then Satan has set a trap that appears to be god-like. Ask yourself the following questions: is there any deception? Is there alcohol or drugs involved? Do I have to go in debt? Are there any cautions from the wife? Is the deal too good to be true? There is no such thing as a “little decision.” There are no TWO decisions that are equally right!

9. Inconsistent in Discipline (Proverbs 31:28)

SOW: He defends or takes sides especially with the children against her.

REAP: She feels he is being disloyal to her. She will end up blaming him for rebellious children.

10. Unwillingness to Ask for Forgiveness

SOW: He tends to not want to admit failure.

REAP: She reacts to his pride and loses respect for him.

In Luke 18:14 Scripture tell us: “... *For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but everyone who humbles himself will be exalted.*” And in 1 Timothy 1:18-19 “*This charge, son Timothy, I put to you, in keeping with the prophecies already made about you, so that by these prophecies you may fight the good fight, armed with trust and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, some have made shipwreck of their trust*”

A Spiritual Leader is not one who has accomplished but one who is going in the right direction