

of the same verse. Do you honestly think that a wife has to be told to respect her husband if he's loving her as he loves himself?

I don't mean to over-simplify a very difficult struggle for most of us men. However, I do want to sound the trumpet that signals a need for action. Action that will come from husbands understanding that we are called to be the head of our wives. Action that will take deliberate thought, work, wisdom and prayer to accomplish.

The key element in starting today is to remember Jesus' example of servanthood. We will never accomplish God's goal for us as husbands with the "submit to me" attitude. Nor will we encourage them to follow our lead with the "I'm in charge" position. We must take our lead once again from His Word and His example. Ephesians 5:25 states, "Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her." The underlined italics are mine to emphasize the sacrificial position and attitude we are to have toward our wives. Christ said that He came not to be served but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many. We are called to be a leader, guide, teacher, protector, and provider for our wives. This long journey starts with self-sacrifice and leading by serving. ■

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that love is shown by deeds. Seek to meet genuine, practical needs. If they want to, let them serve you; be appreciative. Ways to help your neighbors might include volunteering to help with kids (e.g. baby-sitting, transportation), meals during crisis times, help work on their car or home projects, mow their lawn, assist the wife with special occasions, etc. At work you can offer to bring them coffee or mail, be a "sounding board," ask them for help or advice, let them get the credit, be willing to do menial tasks, be alert to domestic needs.

Step 4. Friendship Level. Work to deepen the relationship through openness, honesty, trust, and ease in communication. Have memorable times together. Accept them, don't try to reform them. Develop common interests. Consider special outings of longer duration or even a short vacation together. Join in extended work projects around the house (like painting the house or gathering winter firewood).

Step 5. Share Your Testimony. They know you're a Christian, so share what Christ means to you. Clearly identify with Christ in the course of normal conversation. Witness by your lifestyle (Matthew 5:16). You don't have to share everything at one sitting. Ask question . . . let them talk. Pray as you share. Be sensitive to their reaction—put yourself in their shoes. Mention the benefits of Christianity.

Step 6. Witness of the Body. Expose them to your Christian friends. They may discount your individual testimony, but the corporate testimony of the body is powerful.

Step 7. Expose Them to the Gospel. Invite them to an "investigative" Bible study or an evangelistic meeting—be honest with them as to what they can expect to happen.

Step 8. Invite Them to Receive Christ. Give them an opportunity to make a decision. Invite them to pray to receive Christ . . . don't apologize. Help them to understand exactly what they must do to become a Christian. Continue the relationship no matter what they decide.

Sharing the Gospel can be scary, but if you care enough about people, that will pass. When it comes to evangelism, take Nike's advice: "Just do it!" ■

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