



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
the Southern United States

The Monthly Message  
to the Priests' Wives  
February 2019

## How to Win Your Husband to Yourself

*“Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives” (1Peter 3:1)*

*“An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones” (Proverbs 12:4)*

**[A] Wisdom** = understanding the nature of man in general and of one's husband in particular:

- *“The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands” (Proverbs 14:1)*
- *“As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, so is a lovely woman who lacks [discretion].” (Proverbs 11:22)*
- Abigail knew well her husband's nature and character (1Samuel 25)
- Men's psychology in general:
  - 1) Man actualizes himself through achievements.
  - 2) He focuses on concrete subjects rather than emotional humanistic stories.
  - 3) While woman dreams of romance, man dreams of cars and computers = man is realistic/woman is romantic
  - 4) Man doesn't talk about what bothers him and usually doesn't want to burden others with his problems. In such case, she thinks he is pushing her away from his own life.
  - 5) When man talks about something, he does this with concentration and in

short. He is unable to tell details. Hence, the woman thinks he is not telling the truth, or he doesn't love her as long as he doesn't share with her his problems.

- 6) Man has an intense need for freedom and independence, therefore he needs from time to time to get a retreat to fulfill this need through for example going into a trip with his friends. Hence the wife thinks he doesn't love her anymore.
- 7) A man when reconciles his wife after an argument returns to the same degree of intimacy and closeness before argument while a woman returns to the zero point.

### **[B] Things to be avoided:**

#### **(1) Contention:**

There are four verses in the book of Proverbs concerning woman's strife.

- *"Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop than in a house shared with a contentious woman" (Proverbs 21:9)*
- *"Better to dwell in the wilderness than with a contentious and angry woman" (Proverbs 21:19)*
- *"It is better to dwell in a corner of a housetop than in a house shared with a contentious woman" (Proverbs 25:24)*
- *"A continual dripping on a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike" (Proverbs 27:15)*
- *"Do not let the sun go down on your wrath" (Ephesians 4:26)*

Types and degrees of contention:

- 1) Short answers and avoidance (just saying good morning)
- 2) Cold shoulders and isolation
- 3) Leaving home and going to parents' house

#### **(2) Punishment and retaliation:**

- The spirit of anger engenders the spirit of retaliation.

- Retaliation is severe anger mixed with feelings of oppression and helplessness

- Forms of punishment and retaliation:

1) Physical withdrawal

2) Spending in an exaggerated way

3) Refraining from sharing in household expenses

4) Refraining from cooking, laundry, and ironing his clothes

5) Inciting children against him and distorting his image in their eyes

6) Scandalizing him before his parents, his in-laws, the priest and his church friends.

7) Getting involved into an emotional affair just to incite the husband

- *“Repay no one evil for evil.... Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord” (Romans 12: 17, 19)*

- *“She does him good and not evil all the days of her life” (Proverbs 31:12)*

### (3) Doubt:

- Its origin lies in one's absolute trust in his own intelligence.

- It is a good media for the devil to plant the seeds of sorrowful doubt.

- It is a vicious cycle that ends up with home destruction

- The wife must not surrender to such thoughts, but she must get rid of them immediately and not responding to them at all lest these seeds become a huge tree that cannot be removed.

- The wife must differentiate between subjective feelings and objective facts.

A wife can never rely on her own subjective feelings accusing her husband without objective evidences. Feelings are deceiving, and the devil get use of them.

### (4) Jealousy:

- *“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies,*

*outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God” (Galatians 5:19-21)*

- *“For wrath kills a foolish man, and envy slays a simple one” (Job 5:2)*
- *“For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there” (James 3:16)*
- The roots of envy are the lack of self-confidence and sense of insecurities.

Forms of wife’s jealousy:

- 1) Being jealous from the husband’s mother, co-workers, their children, his work and/or his service
- 2) Envying the mother in law, the sister in law, one’s co-workers and friends

(5) Disdain:

- *“Now, as the ark of the Lord came into the City of David, Michal, Saul’s daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart” (2Samuel 6:16)*
- *“Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, “How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows [a]shamelessly uncovers himself!” (2Samuel 6:20)*

Causes of wife’s disdain to her husband:

- Comparing him with other men
- High financial and materialistic ambition
- Not accepting his weaknesses
- Pride and feeling she excels him spiritually, socially or financially.
- Disdaining his physical needs

Forms of wife’s disdain to her husband:

- Disrespect
- Talking to him with a loud voice

- Ordering, rebuking, blaming or making fun of him before others including parents and children
- Blame, hurting criticism and always making him feel guilty

#### (6) Over burdening the husband with financial burdens:

- The roots of this over burdening are envying others, greediness, pride, and desire of luxury life.
- The wife in such case turns the husband into an ATM machine which leads to his depletion. The wife is not satisfied with him unless he responds to all her exaggerated financial needs.
- The Holy Bible praises the wife who has good financial planning ability saying, *“She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands. She is like the merchant ships, she brings her food from afar. She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard” (Proverbs 31:13-16)*

#### (7) Impudent tongue:

- *“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Proverbs 15:1)*
- *“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver” (Proverbs 25:11)*

Words of gratitude, love, prayers, praise, encouragement and comfort have magical effects in creating a spiritual serene atmosphere dominated by love and respect.