

# 5 Core Beliefs Every Christian Marriage Needs

**We are equal.** A respecer comes into marriage with an idea that their spouse is totally equal in value. Their spouse can reason and have different perspective, but there is still equality. The value of a respecer isn't based on gender, success or education; it's based on the blood of Jesus Christ. This core of equality allows the respecer to hear their spouse fully because they might miss something valuable.

**Hearts are valuable.** The respecer not only wants to know the mind of their spouse, they want to know how they feel. The respecer is focused on connecting heart to heart. They would consider someone who would rule over another's heart in order to get to a goal or just to be right gross and immature. Staying in a connected relationship is more valuable to the respecer than closing the deal. The respecer values the person over outcomes.

**Truth is a journey.** The respecer truly knows and believes in his or her heart that he/she does not know all truth at all times. They know that God distributes truth. They know their spouse has some pieces of truth and that together they may or may not have all the truth they need to move through an issue. There is humility in the heart of a respecer to seek truth and not presume they know truth.

**No emotion justifies rudeness.** A respecer is not perfect. They have emotions as well. They can dislike others, become hurt or get mad like the rest of us can. They just don't! The bottom line is that it's not right to be rude or unkind. It would hurt them more to act like a dis-respecer than to just be quiet and try to be gracious.

**We are allowed to be different.** Being different, seeing things

differently, and even having different outcomes is normal for the respecer. What would you expect from any two people who have different life experiences, priorities and education, not to mention genders?

To expect these two people to agree on everything or think that one would have to be right is absolutely insane to the respecer. It's crazy to believe in sameness when God intentionally and expertly made us entirely different from one another. For the respecer, it's totally acceptable if we disagree; we will do that throughout our entire life anyway. Navigating differences respectfully is expected, but to assume agreement isn't even in the psyche of a respecer.

Your spouse is by far the most important person in your life. You can evaluate yourself by now. Are you at the core a respecer? Take a moment and really think about this.

Most of you know at a core level that it's best for you to regularly treat your spouse with respect. That it's best that you honor your spouse with your words as well as your actions.

As Christians, you should know that respecting someone else as God respects us is to encourage his or her strengths. You, as their spouse, need to focus on the gifts they have and things you appreciate about them. {eoa}

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