

The Best Way to Honor Your Spouse and Your Marriage

Respect in marriage is crucial to having a lasting and enjoyable marriage. In today's article, I will outline the basic characteristics and fundamentals that drive a respecer's treatment of their spouse.

Respecters have a set of core beliefs. These beliefs are quite different from those of a disrespecer. Being a respecer is not gender biased, so you will see me use both pronouns in this post. The respecer knows we are all equal in value.

We Are Equal

A respecer comes into marriage with an idea that his spouse is totally equal in value. His spouse can reason and have a 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 his spouse fully because he believes that if he doesn't listen carefully, he may miss something valuable.

Hearts Are Valuable

The respecer not only wants to know the mind of her spouse, she also wants to know how he feels. The respecer is focused on connecting heart to heart. She would consider that the person who attempted to rule over another person's heart in order to get to a goal or just to be right was very 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 heart that he does not know all truth at all times. He knows that God distributes truth. He knows his 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 he knows truth.

No Emotion Justifies Rudeness

A respecer is not perfect. She has emotions as well. She can dislike others, become hurt or get mad like the rest of us. She just doesn't allow herself to do it! The bottom line is that it's not right to be rude or unkind. It would hurt her so much more to act like a disrespecer than just to be quiet and try to be gracious. The respecer knows what my pastor tells us all the time: "Have manners and be nice."

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 two people to agree on everything or think that one of them is always right is absolutely insane thinking to the respecer. It just doesn't make sense to believe in sameness when God intentionally expertly made us entirely different from one another. For the respecer, it is totally acceptable to disagree because we will do that throughout our entire lives, 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 more closely aligned to the core beliefs of a disrespecer or a respecer? Take a moment and really think about this.

At a core level, you know that it is best to treat your spouse regularly with respect. You also know innately that it is best to honor your spouse with your words and with your actions. You also know that it takes some effort not to demean, ridicule, or embarrass your spouse.

Respecting another person as God respects you is encouraging that person to operate in his or her strengths. Show respect for your spouse by encouraging him or her to focus on the gifts God has given him or her and show your appreciation for those gifts.

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