

EPHESIANS 5:33

MARRIAGE ROLES (PART 11 - THE WIFE'S RESPECT)

Grasping three aspects of respect for her husband ensures the wife's excellence in marriage.

1. The meaning

2. The motivation

3. The manner

a. In thought

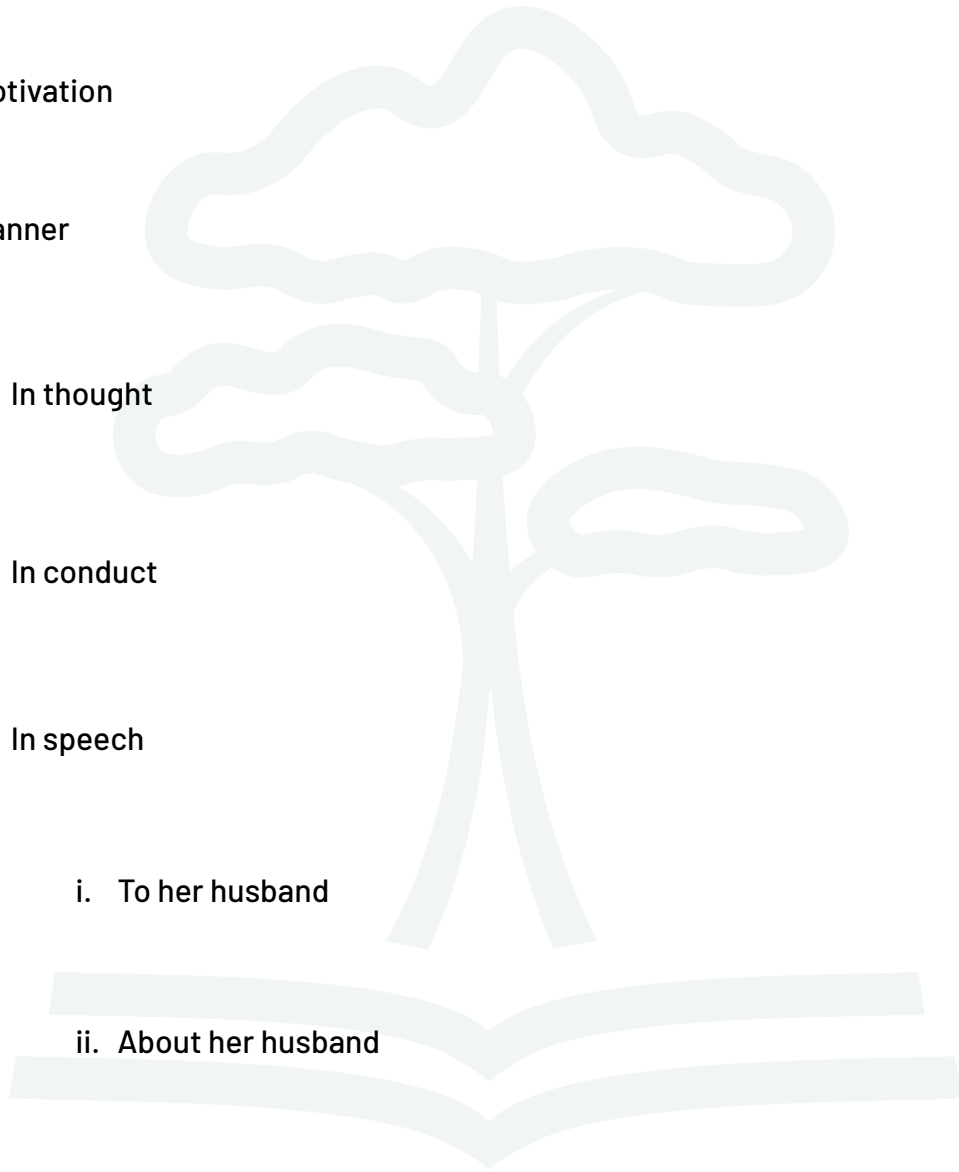
b. In conduct

c. In speech

i. To her husband

ii. About her husband

iii. With her husband



QUOTES

1. "Honor your husbands to their superiority. Behave not yourselves towards them with unreverence and contempt, in title, speeches, or any behaviours: if the worth of their persons deserve not honour, yet their place deserveth it. Speak not of their infirmities to others behind their backs; as some twattling gossips use to do, that know not that their husbands' dishonour is their own, and that to open it causelessly to others, is their double shame. Those that silently hear you will tell others behind your back, how foolishly and shamefully you spake to them against your husbands. If God have made your nearest friend an affliction to you, why should you complain to one that is farther off? (Unless it be to some special, prudent friend, in case of true necessity, for advice.)"¹ – Richard Baxter
2. "Her reverence will extend itself to her actions, and lead to an incessant desire to please him in all things... All her conduct should be framed upon this principle, to give him contentment and to increase his delight in her."² – John Angell James
3. "Let her by cheerful good humour diffuse an air of pleasantness through his dwelling. Let her guard as much as possible against a gloomy and moody disposition, which causes her to move about with the silence and cloudiness of a spectre (ghost): for who likes to dwell in a haunted house? She should always welcome him across his threshold with a smile, and ever put forth all her ingenuity in studying to please him, by consulting his wishes, by surprising him occasionally with those unlooked for and ingenious devices of affection, which, though small in themselves, are the proofs of a mind intent upon the business of giving pleasure... In all her personal and domestic habits, her first care then, next to that of pleasing God, must be to please him, and thus hold to herself that heart, which cannot wander from her without carrying her happiness with it."³ – John Angell James
4. "Your reverence will be manifest in your *words*: for instance, in your manner of speaking *of* him, you will avoid all that will tend to lessen him in the esteem of others; all exposure of his faults or minor weaknesses; all depreciation of his understanding or domestic rule. Such gossip is detestable and mischievous, for can any thing tend more to irritate him, than to find that you have been sinking him in the esteem of the public? Reverence will be displayed in your manner of speaking *to* him... all flippancy, every thing of contemptuous consciousness of superiority, of dictation and command, or unnecessary contradiction, or pertinacious and obtrusive disputation, of scolding accusation, of angry, reproachful complaint, of noisy and obstreperous expostulation, should be avoided. Almost all domestic quarrels begin in words; and it is usually in a woman's power to prevent them by causing the law of kindness to dwell upon her lips, and

¹ Richard Baxter, *The Practical Works of Richard Baxter, Volume I* (Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 2023), 440.

² John Angel James, *A Help to Domestic Happiness* (Grand Rapids, MI: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 2020), 61.

³ John Angel James, *A Help to Domestic Happiness* (Grand Rapids, MI: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 2020), 62.

calming the gusts of her husband's passion, by those soft answers which turn away wrath. Especially should she be careful how she speak to him, or even before him, in the company of her family, or of strangers: she must not talk him into silence; not talk at him; nor say any thing that is calculated to would or degrade him, for a sting inflicted in public is doubly charged with venom; she must not endeavor to eclipse him, to engrosse the attention of the company to herself, to reduce him to a cypher which is valueless till she stands before him."⁴



⁴ John Angel James, *A Help to Domestic Happiness* (Grand Rapids, MI: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 2020), 59-61.