

a. "You will never be able to show her the amount of emotional openness and esteem that she really wants—no man could—but symbolic things can do a great deal to bridge the gap."

AGREE ____ DISAGREE ____ Explain:

b. "Women are the ones who have babies, and that's one reason that birthdays are a big deal to them. . . . In a woman's mind, who could possibly forget a birthday? She never would."

AGREE ____ DISAGREE ____ Explain:

c. ". . . a marriage date is etched in the woman's soul. Since childhood, your wife dreamed of the wedding day. . . ."

AGREE ____ DISAGREE ____ Explain:



This section offers some great discussion possibilities. As a wife, do you feel about birthdays and anniversaries the way Emerson describes? As a husband, do you begin to grasp how important this can be to a woman?

Discuss the example of giving the wife a Mercedes or a little rock with a sentimental message inscribed on it (see book page 178). Is Emerson overstating his case when he claims most women would treasure the rock more? What is his point? And be sure to read the letter from the wife whose husband “went all out” for Valentine’s Day. Should more husbands try things like this? Why or why not?

1 1 Read the story included in “Does Your Wife Ever Want . . .” (book pages 179–81). Is Emerson right when he says, “Every husband has been expected to read his wife’s mind”? What do you think of Emerson’s suggested solution to the husband’s problem when his wife doesn’t want to go to the restaurant he picked? Is coming up with some alternative restaurants too much to ask of the typical husband?



The two of you can have fun with this story, as long as it doesn’t crimp somebody’s air hose. (You may want to borrow each other’s pink or blue sunglasses and hearing aids!) For other ways to lighten up the discussion see book page 307. Also talk about how a husband can disagree with his wife and keep her esteem intact (see the last paragraph in the section, page 181, where Emerson offers three responses a husband can make). What is the key to disagreeing agreeably?

12 Read “Thank Her for All She Does” and “Your Wife Will Feel Esteemed When . . .” (book pages 181–82). Which of these ideas and tips for ways to make a wife feel esteemed seem most practical to you? Write down your choices and when you plan to try them.



Be sure the wife gets to contribute her opinion on what the husband might like to try. Later, after the husband tries at least one of these tips, talk about the difference it made and how this practice can be continued.

A JOURNAL OF MY JOURNEY TO LOVE AND RESPECT

When you have opportunity, review the journal entries you have made since beginning your journey to Love and Respect. Are you encouraged by your progress?

SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS

1. Because Christians live in a secular culture, they are susceptible to the argument that it is unrealistic for two people to remain faithful to each other “til death us do part.” More than one Christian husband or wife has rationalized, “A person’s needs change. In fact we just aren’t the same people we were when we got married. I need to move on. I know God wants me to be happy.” Is there any passage in the Bible that can “divorce-proof” your marriage? We know God “hates divorce” and He advises all husbands, “So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth” Malachi 2:15 NIV). But on the positive side, what can a husband do? Proverbs 5:18–19 offers wisdom: “. . . may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love” (NIV). Not only does this passage assume that a marriage is to be long and lasting, but it tells us how to make it so. The loyal husband not only refuses to gaze on other women, but he fixes his eyes on his wife, refusing to see the negative, and rejoicing in her positive features and the loving person she is.
2. A woman never tires of hearing her husband call her “my darling, my beautiful one” (Song of Solomon 2:10). In your opinion, why is this true? Have you, husband, said this to your wife lately?
3. “Does a young woman forget all about her jewelry? Does a bride forget her wedding jewels?” (Jeremiah 2:32 NIRV). What is the prophet saying about the nature of the female? Is there any such language about men in the Bible? Why did God design women to remember in detail and forever those things related to being the object of her husband’s loyal love? Her wedding jewels (today, her wedding ring) symbolize her husband’s loyal love, reserved only for her. Do you as a husband appreciate how God designed your wife? If you have daughters, are you mindful that He made them the same way? Is it any wonder, then, that if your loyalty wobbles—or appears to wobble—that she will be filled with fear? Is it time to take her out to dinner (or just take her by the hand) and tell her how much you love her, how glad you are God gave her to you?
4. In 1 Peter 3:7 the apostle instructs the husband to live with his wife in an understanding way and to “show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.” Peter continues in the passage (see 1 Peter 3:8–12) with general instructions to all believers on how to live the Christian life and sums up his

teaching with a quote from Psalm 34:15–16: “For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” The entire passage (vs. 7–12) shows that God watches a good-willed husband who treats his wife with understanding, and that husband’s prayers are not hindered. One husband wrote Emerson to say, “You spoke of our prayers being hindered due to our relationships with our wives. Well, it hit me like a ton of bricks. I knew something was hindering my prayers, but this opened a new door to me.” Questions for every husband: “Am I honoring my wife, esteeming her for all she is and does? Or are my prayers being hindered in any way because of how I treat her?”

My current thoughts about our marriage:

SESSION NINE

In preparation for this session, read Chapter Fifteen, “C-H-A-I-R-S: How to Spell Respect to Your Husband,” and Chapter Sixteen, “Conquest—Appreciate His Desire to Work and Achieve.” The following questions are for individual study or study by a couple. Remember to answer all unmarked questions first, then answer questions marked by the male or female icon (whichever applies to you). Finally, answer the questions with the couple icon, if you’re studying with your mate. (Suggestions for leading a small group in studying this workbook can be found in *Workbook Appendix I*, page 201.)

This session opens your study of C-H-A-I-R-S, six principles to help a wife learn important aspects of respecting her husband. Note that just under the title of Chapter Fifteen in *Love & Respect* is a notice to husbands saying the next several chapters are “for wives only but husbands are invited to read along.” Husbands are also invited to study along as well, so please do. As the wife discusses the six parts of C-H-A-I-R-S with the husband, she will learn more about how to respect him (and he will learn how to help and encourage her to do it better!).

A SPECIAL WORD FOR WIVES FROM EMERSON:

What I told the husbands about how to use C-O-U-P-L-E (book page 118) also applies to wives regarding their acronym, C-H-A-I-R-S. The Crazy Cycle says that when a husband is acting unlovingly, there is a good chance he is feeling disrespected. And, as C-H-A-I-R-S explains, there can be six good reasons for this. For example, if he feels you aren’t really appreciating his desire to protect and provide for you (hierarchy), he can react in an unloving fashion. As C-O-U-P-L-E serves the husband as a diagnostic tool to figure out what is happening in the marriage, C-H-A-I-R-S plays the same role for the wife. She can say to herself, “Since my husband is acting in ways that feel unloving to me, perhaps it is because he feels

disrespected. I can react in one of two ways: be even more disrespectful because he is so unloving, or I can decode by checking C-H-A-I-R-S to see where I might be saying or doing something wrong.”

With this approach, you can temper your hurt feelings and resist the temptation to go after him with angry tears or criticism. You can try to decode his words or actions as you trust he is a good-willed man who wishes you no evil (even if it seems that way at the moment). Vital to your decoding process is to remember that C-H-A-I-R-S spells out six desires that are deep in a man’s soul, given to him by God. For example, he has a desire to protect and provide, to serve and to lead, and others. Unconditional respect by the wife means she respects these God-given desires, even if her husband doesn’t always fulfill them as well as he (or she) would like. (For more on understanding and respecting your husband’s God-given desires, visit the Web site: <http://loveandrespect.com/pearl/>)

In a real sense, C-H-A-I-R-S is your “decoder” as you try to pinpoint what it is you may have done that felt disrespectful to your husband. For example, you recall a recent conversation in the car, when he started to offer his opinion on what should be done to get the kids to do their homework. You remember cutting him off in mid-sentence, saying you had already talked to their teachers and had it all worked out. Obviously, you stepped on his air hose big time in the area of Insight—his desire to analyze and counsel. What can you do? Apologize and ask for forgiveness for being disrespectful. (It also won’t hurt if you start asking his opinion about things you have been handling alone because “it’s just easier that way.”) Chances are he may shrug it off and say “No problem,” but deep down he will like being shown respect, if only through an apology. And the Energizing Cycle will start humming again.

As I mentioned to the husbands, there may be times when you can’t decode what’s wrong. Your best bet is to communicate your feelings with the “need communicator” statements at the bottom of page 306 in *Love & Respect*. Let him know that what he’s been doing feels unloving and you wonder if you have done something disrespectful. He may or may not spell something out, but you can go ahead and say, “I’m sorry if I have been disrespectful. Please tell me how I can come across more respectfully.” At this point, he may give you some idea of what is bothering him. Remember, many men have a hard time expressing that they feel disrespected and can struggle with describing their feelings. The better you know and understand C-H-A-I-R-S, the more successful you will be in decoding the situation.

Questions for Chapter Fifteen

1 To get started, the six words represented by the acronym C-H-A-I-R-S are listed below. Next to each word is a brief definition. Under each word write what it suggests to you. Does your definition match the one given?

Conquest: His desire to work and achieve.

My definition:

Hierarchy: His desire to protect and provide.

My definition:

Authority: His desire to serve and to lead.

My definition:

Insight: His desire to analyze and counsel.

My definition:

Relationship: His desire for shoulder-to-shoulder friendship.

My definition:

Sexuality: His desire for sexual intimacy.

My definition:



Which of these words piqued your curiosity as a husband or as a wife? Which seems most important to a happy marriage? Why? When the study of C-H-A-I-R-S is complete, come back to this question and see if your opinions have changed and talk about why they may have changed.

2 On the opening pages of Chapter Fifteen, Emerson reviews something he said earlier: for many wives the words “unconditional respect” seem like a foreign term, even an oxymoron. According to Emerson’s research and experience with thousands of couples, a wife may buy into the idea of giving her husband unconditional respect, but have trouble with how to go about it. Take a moment to put down your honest thoughts about “unconditional respect” from your pink or blue perspective:



I think “unconditional respect” is:



I think “unconditional respect” is:



Be sensitive to each other as you share your answers. You may want to pass on discussing this now. If you want to try, it might be of help to go over the testimonial letters from wives on book pages 184 and 185. What worked for these women as they tried to start giving their husbands unconditional respect?

3 “How to Use the ‘Respect Test’ with Your Husband” (book pages 185–87) includes Emerson’s description of one of the most effective tools he has developed to help wives tell their husbands, “I respect you!” Read this section carefully, then record your honest response. Could the Respect Test work in your marriage? Are you willing to try it?



Because you are studying together, obviously it will be impossible for a wife to “surprise” her husband by telling him, “I just want you to know I respect you.” Suggestion for wives: write him a “respect note” sometime in the next few days. It doesn’t matter if he knows the note is coming. What it says, surprise or not, is what will count. Suggestion for husbands: it is important that you receive and read this note without sarcasm or even teasing such as, “You just wrote this because Emerson told you to.” All a husband need remember is how he would feel if he tried to do something loving that is suggested in *Love & Respect*, and his wife responded with, “You’re just doing that because you read it in the book.” Obviously the whole idea behind saying or writing a message of respect is that the wife wants to do it, even if she isn’t sure what will happen.

4 Read the rest of the chapter, from “Be Ready with Reasons That You Respect Him” to the end (book pages 187–92). Emerson stresses that when a wife tells her husband, “I respect you,” she must be ready with good reasons why, because he will want to know! A key problem for many wives, especially those just getting acquainted with the concept of respect, is that they can’t think of what to say. Look over Emerson’s suggestions and make some notes on what could work.



You may agree to leave this question strictly for the wife. If the Respect Test or writing a Respect Note has any favorable results at all (and it usually does) husband and wife will have lots to discuss afterward. As Emerson says on book page 189, the typical good-willed husband wants a happy marriage, and “... wives who try the Respect Test can be amazed at what will happen. Men are starving for respect.” For examples of what can happen when wives start practicing respect, see the letters on pages 189–91.

Questions for Chapter Sixteen

5 Read the opening of Chapter Sixteen on book pages 193–94, especially the part about what not to say to a man who has lost his job. Why would it probably be nonproductive, even harmful, for a wife to say, “It’s okay, honey; we have each other”? What does a man’s job have to do with his sense of self-respect? Because his job is so important to him, does that mean his wife is unimportant? Write your thoughts:



Talk together about how important work is to a man. Keep in mind that in this day and age work may be quite important to a woman as well. Later in Chapter Sixteen, Emerson observes that many wives work, but the typical woman likes to have the option of being able to leave the workplace if she so chooses (see book page 199).

6 In “From the Start, Adam Enjoyed His Work” (book pages 194–96), Emerson shares insights from Genesis about the first man and his career path. What does this section tell you about men and their work? Emerson claims that working—being involved in adventure and conquest out in the field of life—is not an option for a man but rather, “it is a deep-seated trait.” Write down some of your thoughts about why you agree or disagree with this idea.



Share your reactions to Emerson's opinions. Be sure to discuss what Scripture says about the woman being a "helpmeet" to the man. How does this play out in today's world where many women work out of necessity or choice, and sometimes earn more than their husbands?

7

Read "A Man's First Question: 'What Do You Do?'" (book pages 196–98). What was the real threat to Emerson's two friends who faced dying of cancer?



The wife should be sure to answer this question and then talk with her husband about his work and its importance. According to the bottom of book page 197, what happens to a husband's air hose if she even implies unknowingly that his work is not all that important?

8 In “Do Women Want to Have It All?” (book pages 198–200), Emerson makes it clear that while women may desire to work out of the home, and may be extremely capable in their jobs, there are questions to ask about how this affects the family, especially the children. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Write brief reasons for your answers.

A woman should be able to work if she wants to.

AGREE ____ DISAGREE ____

If at all possible, the man should be the main breadwinner.

AGREE ____ DISAGREE ____

A woman should be able to stop working if she wishes (to take care of a new baby, for example).

AGREE ____ DISAGREE ____

Although there can be exceptions, generally speaking women make the best caregivers for children.

AGREE ____ DISAGREE ____

For the typical wife, her first desire is not for a career but for a home and family.

AGREE ____ DISAGREE ____



Comparing your answers to the above statements can provide much valuable sharing. If both of you are working, try to come to some mutual conclusions as to why you both work, how long this will continue, and where the children fit in.

9 Read the last two sections of Chapter Sixteen: “Have You Ever Said, ‘Thanks for Working?’” and “He Wants a Woman Who Believes in Him” (book pages 200–03). Then take the True or False test that pertains to you:



Mark each statement T for True, or F for False.

- ____ I have told my husband numerous times, “Thanks for working.”
- ____ I sometimes think my husband works too long and too much.
- ____ My husband is much more than a “meal ticket” to me.



Mark each statement T or F.

- It would be (is) nice to be told, "Thanks for working."
- I know I work too many hours, but feel I have no choice.
- I sometimes feel I'm just a "meal ticket."



Compare your answers and discuss them. Be sensitive to each other, particularly concerning "working too many hours." Note Emerson's comment on page 202 of *Love & Respect*: "If he is a good-willed man who is neglecting his family by working too much, he will realize it, and you can talk it through and work it out." (For more on a man working too much see *Love & Respect* Appendix E, page 315.)

10 Go over the tips on book page 203 ("Your Husband Will Feel You Appreciate His Desire to Work and Achieve When . . ."). Choose two or three you think could benefit your marriage. When do you see these being tried?



Compare notes on what each of you chose. If the husband's feelings about how his work is perceived did not come out in Question 5, they may be clearer as the two of you talk about it here.

A JOURNAL OF MY JOURNEY TO LOVE AND RESPECT

You should be very comfortable at this point with recording your thoughts and impressions of your journey toward Love and Respect. Continue to follow through at the conclusion of each session until the end of the workbook.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS

1. As you begin your study of C-H-A-I-R-S, remember that each letter in the acronym is designed to help the wife who may well be sailing in uncharted waters called “unconditional respect.” Emerson has talked to many wives who want to respect their husbands unconditionally, but they are not sure how to go about it. To these wives I say, “How perfectly you do this is not the issue; how willing you are is what counts.” A good verse to keep in mind is Proverbs 14:1: “The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down” (NIV). One woman who had realized her mistakes wrote: “I am ‘a nasty, big mouth wench’ who emotionally abuse^d her husband by her lack of respect and bad behavior. I know a foolish woman tears down her own house, now I want to build my house back up.” Chances are you are not in this woman’s shoes, but perhaps God is calling you to make some things right. What, specifically, can you start practicing as a way to respect your husband unconditionally?
2. The husband who finds a good spouse who supports, appreciates, and respects him “obtains favor from the LORD” (Proverbs 18:22). Have you ever heard your husband say, in one way or another, that he was a favored man because of you? If not, there are two possible reasons: he is overlooking the gift you are to him and needs to be more mature in his evaluation of you; or perhaps your disrespect has made it hard for him to feel and express his appreciation. Have you ever considered that you have been given by the Lord to your husband to meet his need to be respected? Has it occurred to you that this is part of God’s call on your life? Is this call getting easier to answer? Why or why not?

My current thoughts about our marriage:

SESSION TEN

In preparation for this session, read Chapter Seventeen, “Hierarchy—Appreciate His Desire to Protect and Provide,” and Chapter Eighteen, “Authority—Appreciate His Desire to Serve and to Lead.” The following questions are for study by an individual or study by a couple. Spouses studying together should note that Chapters Seventeen and Eighteen cover material that is complex and sensitive. Leave plenty of time for reading and discussing all of the additional commentary as well as *Workbook* Appendix IV, which deals with mutual submission. Remember to answer all unmarked questions first, then answer questions marked by the male or female icon (whichever applies to you). Finally, answer the questions with the couple icon, if you’re studying with your mate. (Suggestions for leading a small group in studying this workbook can be found in *Workbook* Appendix I, page 201.)

Questions for Chapter Seventeen

1 According to the dictionary, *hierarchy* means “a body of persons organized or classified according to rank, capacity, or authority.” When you read the phrase, “hierarchy in marriage,” what immediately comes to mind? Check the answer that comes closest to your honest first response, or write your own.

- a. Politically incorrect.
- b. Men think they are superior.
- c. God’s plan is good, but men abuse it.
- d. I think:



Compare your answers. Did either of you check or write a definition that interprets “hierarchy in marriage” negatively? Discuss what Emerson says on page 205 of *Love & Respect*. Does he think the Bible supports chauvinism and the “superiority of the male”? Write down the gist of what you believe Emerson is saying:



2 According to the section “What Is the Real Meaning of ‘Biblical Hierarchy?’” (book pages 206–8), what kind of hierarchy has God planned for marriage? (See also Ephesians 5:22–24.) What does God call the husband to do? What does He call the wife to do?



Talk about a husband’s responsibility to love, protect, and provide for his wife. Take a second look together at the letter from a wife on book page 207. How did she first interpret her husband’s firm, even a bit gruff, efforts to lead and protect her? What changed her mind about his leadership?

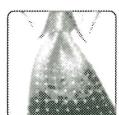


3 According to Emerson (book pages 207–8) an evil-willed man might abuse his position as head of the family but a good-willed man would not take advantage of his wife or children because “that is not his nature. He will not use his position as ‘chair’ of the family against those he is to love and protect.”



Do you think Emerson is right? How do you see your husband in his role as “head” of the family? Which statement comes closest to describing him? Or if you prefer, write your own:

- a. I am comfortable with my husband as “head.” He does a good job.
- b. I agree he should be the “head,” but I wish I could have more input.
- c. I am not completely comfortable with my husband as “head.” He thinks he is being biblical, but he puts the children and me down at times.
- d. I think:



How do you view your God-given position as “head” of the family? Which of the following statements best describes how you feel about having this responsibility?

- a. Uncomfortable. I never asked to be the “head,” but when I try to do what the Bible says, I don’t get a lot of support from my family.
- b. Comfortable. As far as I know I do not lord it over my wife and kids.
- c. I’m willing to be “head,” but I could use some help sometimes.
- d. I think:



Compare what you checked or wrote: this could be a sensitive question, for either of you. Before discussing your answers, agree with God that you want to show each other love and respect. Both of you need to be humble and willing to accept feedback from each other, even if it smarts a bit. After (or perhaps during) your discussion, read together Emerson's additional commentary in *Workbook* Appendix VI to get additional input.

Following are some questions for a good-willed husband to help him evaluate how he feels when his wife chooses quietness rather than being verbally contentious. As a husband, which of the following comes closest to what you might think? (As a wife, which of the following would you say your husband would choose?)

- a. Her quietness is an endorsement of my position and no further discussion is needed. I get what I want.
- b. I'm afraid her quietness is short term and insincere; she will verbally attack me if she doesn't get her way.
- c. Her quietness gets my attention and calms me down. I often feel convicted about where I have been unreasonable and want to make amends.
- d. I think her quietness is one of two things: weakness and fear, or rebellion and anger. Either way, when she won't talk to me I get irritated.
- e. Her quietness? That would be nice. I have not encountered what Emerson describes.
- f. I think:



This can be sensitive. Remember that both of you have goodwill and want to treat each other with love and respect. The good-willed wife may want to assure her husband that she never uses quietness as a ploy or a weapon. The good-willed husband may want to reassure his wife that as she seeks to obey God, he will seek to respond in good faith as well. (For more examples of

how a wife's quiet respectfulness can influence her husband, go to <http://www.loveandrespect.com/pearl/>)

4 Read "Paul Versus Today's Culture" (book pages 208–9). In an "ideal marriage relationship," how does a husband act? What are some reasons a wife might be hesitant to place herself under her husband as "the head"? Which of the following comments might apply to you and your spouse?

- a. He can be the head, but will he really care about my needs?
- b. I want him to be the head, but not too much.
- c. What if headship becomes dictatorship?
- d. I make more than he does, so why does he get to be the head?
- e. My comment:



Compare the answers you checked or wrote down. Is "the husband as head" an accepted concept in your marriage, or are there concerns and questions?

At the bottom of book page 208 and top of 209, Emerson describes a problem many wives have (and that includes Christian spouses). They want to be treated like a princess but "deep down they resist treating their husbands like the king." Do you think he is right or wrong? Or, would you say this is true of some marriages but not yours?



5 In “How to Deflate a Husband with Seven Words” (book page 209), find the remark a wife made that deflated and disrespected her husband. Fill in the blanks:

“You need _____.”

Why would this remark hurt a husband so badly? List some reasons here:



Compare your answers and discuss what happened in the incident described on book pages 209–10. Was the husband too sensitive? Did the wife have any clue about what showing him respect might mean? In earlier sessions you covered the question that any Love and Respect spouse can ask to guard against being unloving or disrespectful. For husband or wife, the question begins: “Is what I am about to say or do . . . ?” How does this question end for the husband? For the wife? (If you need help, see “Always ask yourself” in *Love & Respect* Appendix A, page 305.)

6 Read the touching story in “Showing Respect by Candlelight,” book pages 210–11. What stands out in this account of how and why Dr. E. V. Hill and his wife, Jane, ate by candlelight? Write down your strongest impressions.



Compare your answers. Wife, if something like this would happen to you and your husband, would your natural response be similar to what Jane Hill did? Husband, if you found yourself in the same situation as Dr. Hill, how would you have responded to the “candlelight dinner for two”? Talk together about how important finances are to a marriage. Is Emerson correct in saying: “Mark it down. Men are more vulnerable to criticism when it is related to headship issues”?



7 Read “The Card He’ll Keep Forever” (book pages 211–13). Why does being told by his wife that she respects his leadership work so powerfully on the typical husband? Write your own ideas. How do they compare with what the husband says in his letter on page 212?



Compare your answers. This could possibly be an awkward question for one or both of you, so be sensitive to each other’s feelings. (The use of a Respect Test or Respect Note was covered in Session 9, but it is well worth repeating here, in this session on hierarchy.) Wife, are you willing to write such a card or note to express appreciation for his leadership and protection? Husband, what would you think if she did? Would you save such a card or note to read and reread it?

8 Go over the tips in “Your Husband Will Feel You Appreciate His Desire to Protect and Provide When . . .” (book pages 213–14). Choose one or more that you believe would benefit your marriage. Write down your choices, putting them in your own words as much as possible, and adding ideas of your own that would apply.



Husbands should write down their choices too. Compare the ideas each of you chose and then agree on at least one thing the wife can do or practice during the coming week. At the end of the week, talk together about how it went for each of you. Is it worth continuing? What other ideas could you try?

Questions for Chapter Eighteen

9 Read “Who’s the Boss at Your House?” (book pages 216–17). Then indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements and write a brief reason for your answer.

- a. Men and women are totally equal, and husbands don’t have any more responsibility and authority than their wives do.

AGREE ____ DISAGREE ____ Explain:

b. The good-willed husband who acts responsibly and lovingly as leader of his home always works out compromises that are mutually pleasing.

AGREE ____ DISAGREE ____ Explain:

c. If a wife is a better decision maker and has better judgment than her husband, she should demand equal say regarding what they buy, where they go, what they do.

AGREE ____ DISAGREE ____ Explain:

d. The good-willed wife who is more competent than her husband needs to demonstrate her abilities by her respectful speech and deferential attitude, with the confidence that in time her husband will prize her giftedness.

AGREE ____ DISAGREE ____ Explain:



Compare your answers to these statements. This could be a sensitive area, particularly if the wife is inclined toward the feminist view, which claims that men and women should have equal authority and responsibility. A good goal is not to cater to what society and culture are saying about husbands and wives but work to understand what Scripture says. Many wives are like the young woman in the opening of Chapter Eighteen (book page 215) who said: “I want him to be the head. I want him to be the leader. I just want to make sure that he makes decisions in keeping with what I want.”

10

Read “Does Scripture Teach Mutual Submission?” (book pages 217–19), where Emerson discusses the concept of “mutual submission” which says husbands and wives should submit to one another with neither one being owed any special deference. What impressions or opinions do you have about “mutual submission?” Choose from the statements on the next page, or write your own assessment.

- a. Mutual submission sounds unworkable. Ultimately, someone has to be responsibly in charge.
- b. These mutual submission people may have something. I need to get more info.
- c. I prefer the Love and Respect approach.
- d. I think:



As you compare your answers, be aware that for some couples this could be a sensitive question. Biblical feminists have argued in recent years for a certain kind of “mutual submission,” which they base on Ephesians 5:21: “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” (NIV). Those proposing this particular mutual submission approach interpret Ephesians 5:21 to mean that the wife owes no special submission to her husband. However, Ephesians 5:22 clearly says: “Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord” (NIV). The Love and Respect approach to marriage is based on Ephesians 5:22, which does not give a husband a mandate to treat his wife poorly. On the contrary, he is to defer to his wife’s need for love in all situations. This is his goal, even though he is certain to fall short at times. Review page 218 of *Love & Respect*, especially the discussion of how to deal with honest stalemates. For more on mutual submission and a detailed explanation of the apparent contradiction in Ephesians 5:21–22, see *Workbook Appendix IV*, page 213.

11 Read “Husbands Are Responsible to ‘Make the Call’” (book pages 219–21). How does a Love and Respect couple reach a decision when there is an honest stalemate, a difference of opinion where husband and wife both have good points and reasons why they believe their way is best? List some steps they can take to keep Love and Respect working in their relationship. According to book page 220, if the husband

has to “make the call” and his wife does not agree with it, how does she cope with the temptation to feel unloved at the moment? How does she show him respect?



Compare your answers and talk about how you deal with stalemates in your own marriage. Wife, do you agree with Emerson's advice on book page 220 to remain respectful and quiet? Husband, do you accept your responsibility to “make the call” when necessary if a decision is needed and you can't agree with each other? For additional help with your discussion, see *Workbook* Appendix IV, as well as Emerson's additional commentary in *Workbook* Appendix VI.

12 The following paragraphs are excerpted from the section in “Authority Must Come with Responsibility” (book pages 221–23). Mark your reaction to each paragraph and put down a brief reason why.

- a. “. . . because God has made your husband responsible (review Ephesians 5:25–33), he needs the authority to carry out that responsibility. No smoothly running organization can have two heads. To set up a marriage with two equals at the head is to set it up for failure. . . . God knew someone had to be in charge, and that is why Scripture teaches that, in order for things to work, the wife is called to defer to her husband.”

AGREE ____ DISAGREE ____ Explain:

b. "If you want to work with your husband to reach mutually satisfying decisions most of the time, follow this principle: GO ON RECORD WITH YOUR HUSBAND THAT YOU SEE HIM AS HAVING 51 PERCENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITY AND, THEREFORE, 51 PERCENT OF THE AUTHORITY. Once you go on record about his authority, he will not feel you are trying to be the boss. As you submit (which simply means recognizing his biblically given authority), you will not be a doormat. In fact, you will get your way far more often than you would if you 'stood up for your rights,' which usually means being disrespectful."

AGREE ____ DISAGREE ____ Explain:

c. ". . . among good-willed couples, if there are one hundred decisions over a three-month period related to the family, the wife will have a strong opinion on ninety-nine of them, and her opinion will usually be respected and have strong influence."

AGREE ____ DISAGREE ____ Explain:

For spouses studying together: compare your answers and discuss as many as possible. If you have definite disagreement on a certain paragraph, you may want to focus on that. For additional discussion ideas, see the additional commentary in *Workbook Appendix VI*. (For more on how a wife's submission can strengthen a marriage, see *Workbook Appendix IV*.)

13 Look over the tips in "He Will Feel You Appreciate His Authority and Leadership When . . ." (book pages 224–25) and choose one or more that sound useful for your marriage. Here and on the next page write down what you have chosen, and start thinking of how this idea might be carried out.



Compare your choices. Discuss why you think these particular ideas are important. Be sure the husband gives his input on what he would like his wife to try.

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Write your responses to any Scripture Meditations that seem to speak especially to you regarding your marriage. Also, put down something, no matter how brief, about your current feelings, fears, or questions.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS

1. “Those who talk a lot are likely to sin. But those who control their tongues are wise” (Proverbs 10:19 NIRV). Some wives feel nothing can be resolved apart from talking. Proverbs 10:19, however, says that sometimes too much talk ends up in sin. This is especially true because of the thoughts that precede the talk, as one wife discovered. She wrote to me to say she had begun to realize the many ways she had been disrespectful to her husband during twenty-six years of marriage. The result was she didn’t have the marriage she would have liked and she began asking God to alert her when she was going to say something disrespectful. At first she couldn’t recognize the disrespect until after it was out of her mouth, but then she began recognizing the disrespectful words as they were going through her mind and realized they could be stopped. It also helped to hear her pastor preach on the need to control the tongue, that what comes out of our mouths is what we put in our hearts. Her letter concludes: “If we feed on God’s Word, that is what comes out of our mouths; likewise I recognized that if we feed on being irritated with our husbands, thinking about how they fail us, hurt, or offend us, that is what comes out of our mouths . . . Luke 6:45 says, ‘What’s stored

up in the heart overflows in the mouth.' (That may be paraphrased.) Sounds like love and respect to me!"

2. A wife's willingness to show her husband respect and defer to his authority should not undermine her God-given abilities, as the Proverbs 31 woman clearly demonstrates: "She considers a field and buys it; from her earnings she plants a vineyard" (Proverbs 31:16). As a husband, have you considered designating authority to your wife in certain areas, which will empower her to use her God-given talents? I have done so in my marriage, with wonderful results. My wife, Sarah, is an efficient administrator when it comes to finances. I have entrusted her with the day-to-day bills and financial decisions because I trust her heart and competencies. I am grateful to God, because this has freed me to focus my abilities elsewhere. Why has this worked? One reason is that Sarah has never been afraid to communicate to me that she sees me as the one having 51 percent authority. Another reason is that I have never feared designating the day-to-day authority to her for the finances. She looks to me for approval and sanctioning when new and more major questions arise, and I ask for her counsel as we come to a final decision. In our case this has worked beautifully. I feel respected as the one who is ultimately responsible, but I give her the authority as the one who is immediately involved.

My current thoughts about our marriage: