



## A Publication of the Winnetka Ave. Church of Christ

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## BE THANKFUL THAT YOU HAVE A WIFE...

In Proverbs 18:22, Solomon wrote *“He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord.”* In the ninth chapter of Ecclesiastes, he noted, *“Enjoy with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given you under the sun; for this is your reward in life, and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun.”* (v. 9) What a beautifully stated attitude, but one that is oft time overlooked and therefore not put into practice in day to day life. Truly men are not that naïve are they?

By design, a wife completes man. She is his help-meet; his creative counter-part. Once again the writings of Solomon help paint the picture. *“House and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.”* (Proverbs 19:22) The Amplified Bible presents that passage as follows, *“House and wealth are the inheritance from fathers, But a wise, understanding, and sensible wife is [a gift and blessing] from the LORD.”* Notice the explanation of the word, *“prudent”*; *“wise, understanding and sensible”*. Such a wife is indeed a blessing from God and should be recognized as such and treated accordingly.

Many a husband is guilty of “foot in mouth disease”, that being caricaturized by teasing and complaining, when in reality they should be thankful. George Carlin served as an example of such when he was quoted as having said, “If you shut up when you’re wrong, you are wise. If you shut up when you’re right, you are married.” Or another one that is

heard uttered from time to time is, “the husband is the head of the family, and the wife is the neck that turns the head around.” Indeed a far cry different than what is seen in Proverbs 31 with respect to the worthy (excellent) wife, where *“her children rise up and bless her; her husband also, and he praises her saying; many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all.”* (vs. 38-29)



The apostle Peter chimed in on this subject as well in the third chapter of his first epistle. *“You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.”* (v 7) Seek to understand her and do what you can to lift her up, not keep her down. Bear in mind that part of the definition of understand carries with it the notion of being sympathetic.

*“So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church”* (Ephesians 5:28-29) Lock in for a moment on the word “cherish”. It involves the aspect of nurturing, which in order to bring that about means to cultivate with care and affection. Work is clearly involved in maintaining marriage in the way in which God designed it. Husbands need to awaken as to how blessed they are to have a wife. To not get caught up in all the stereotype of teasing, other wise that might just back fire. “I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes...she hugged me!” (wbe)

THE BULWARK