

HOW TO BECOME A PERSON WORTH FINDING & HAVING

PART 1 = 12 BIBLICAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF A MAN IN A RELATIONSHIP

Esther 1:8-9,19 By edict of the king, no limits were placed on the drinking [during a 7 day party], for the king had instructed all his palace officials to serve each man as much as he wanted. At the same time, Queen Vashti gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Xerxes. On the seventh day of the feast, when King Xerxes was in high spirits because of the wine, he told the seven eunuchs who attended him... to bring Queen Vashti to him with the royal crown on her head. He wanted the nobles and all the other men to gaze on her beauty, for she was a very beautiful woman. But when they conveyed the king's order to Queen Vashti, she refused to come. This made the king furious, and he burned with anger... (After consulting with his top advisors) It [was] ordered that Queen Vashti be forever banished from the presence of King Xerxes, and that the king should choose another queen more worthy than she.



#1 – Avoid making foolish and prideful decisions that will break a relationship apart

Prov 13:3 Those who control their tongue will have a long life; opening your mouth can ruin everything. Prov 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit (*thinking you're superior*) before a fall. Prov 19:3 People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the LORD.

#2 - Understand a MAN's God-given responsibilities in a relationship

1. Providing

1 Tim 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. Ex 21:10 [A man] must not neglect the rights of the first wife to food, clothing, and sexual intimacy.

2. Pleasing her

1 Cor 7:33 A married man has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please* his wife. (*=Serve, win her affection and approval, meet expectations, and be in agreement)

3. Planning, Preparing, Problem Solving

Looking ahead and providing loving leadership to your spouse and family. Prov 16:9 In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps. Prov 19:21 Many are the plans in the heart of a man, but the purpose of the LORD will prevail. Prov 21:5 Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

4. Physical Passion & Purity

1 Cor 7:4 The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Ps 119:37 Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word.

5. Praying

2 Thess 1:11 We keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.

6. Protecting

2 Sam 22:31 God's way is perfect. All the LORD's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.

7. Prioritizing, prizing, and pampering her with love

Eph 5:28-29 Husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it.

8. Praising her (privately and publicly)

Prov 31:28-31 Her husband praises her: "There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!" Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the LORD will be greatly praised. Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise.

9. Playing together

Song of Solomon 2:13 "Rise up, my darling! Come away with me, my fair one!"

Deut 24:5 A newly married man must not be drafted into the army or be given any other official responsibilities. He must be free to spend one year at home, bringing happiness to the wife he has married.

10. Partnering together to become one

Eph 5:32 As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father & mother and is joined (cleave, hold fast) to his wife, and the two are united into one."

11. Pursuing her thoughts

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding (=according to knowledge, careful scientific study) as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner (=co-heir) in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

12. Purifying her with your sacrifice and God's Word

Eph 5:25-26 For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.

Characteristics to avoid or never do: Passing the blame, passivity, provoking, pleading, poisoning comments, preventing her from using her gifts/abilities, profanities, publicizing her faults, pushing or physical harming.

FOR MEN: Where will you get the strength and power to live this kind of life?
Phil 4:13 I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

Group Discussion Questions:

1. (Everyone to answer) Share your name, career field, and something enjoyable you are looking forward to doing in the next 12 months.
Have 2-4 people answer each question...
2. Was there something new that you learned about God tonight that was helpful?
3. What did you heard in tonight that was a positive encouragement to you?
4. What was something you heard tonight that was new to your understanding about God's role for men?
5. What was the most challenging part about this teaching you heard tonight?
6. If you are a woman, which 3 aspects of a man's role are most appealing to you personally? If you are a man,
7. If you really took this teaching to heart, what changes could it make in your life in the future?