

Letting Go to Gain

Letting Go of Your Husband to Gain a Happy Marriage

Lesson 2

Scripture: Ephesians 5:22 - "*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*"

INTRODUCTION: As wives, we are usually the one who, basically, runs the household activities and are with the children more than our husband is with them. Too easily, we can begin to think we should make all the final decisions in the family and take full control of the home - we have then taken over the position of *Head of the House* and have made a mess of our home. If we want a happy, harmonious home and marriage, we MUST first relinquish the position of head of the house and release that grip we have on our husband.

I LET GO OF CONTROLLING YOUR HUSBAND

A. Letting Go

As we get into the "*motherly mode*" we go right on "*mothering*" our husband. He is NOT your child, he is the man you married to take care of you and protect you; the head of your home. If he is controlled by you, neither one of you are able to fulfill God's plan of:

1. husband as head of the wife - Ephesians 5:23 - "*For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church . . .*"
2. wife in subjection to her husband - Ephesians 5:24 - "*Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*"

You will never be at your happiest until you are holding the correct "*office*" in the home.

B. To Gain

To gain the submissive spirit you are to have, ask God for it - He longs to mold you into the Christian wife you long to become. (John 13:14)

II LET GO OF CRITICIZING YOUR HUSBAND

A. Letting Go

When you criticize your husband, he will usually lash back at you with words he does not mean. Men need a wife who is a "*cheerleader*," one who encourages him. Here are a few ways to avoid getting stuck in the criticism habit:

1. Be his cheerleader - Encourage him when he is discouraged; do not step on him when he is down.

2. Praise him - Let him know how great you think he is at such things as repairs, singing, thoughtfulness, or whatever talent God has given him.
3. Thank him - Say an occasional *thank you* to him for opening a door, going to work, or fixing the clogged sink.
4. Make him your hero - No other man should be higher on your list of admiration than your own husband. Even if he is not the greatest at everything, he is yours so make him believe he is the greatest.

B. To Gain

As you live to encourage your husband in all he could be, you will learn to put yourself in the background. By doing this you will gain the “*meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*” (1 Peter 3:4) God will bless you greatly because of a spirit such as this. You will also gain a happy, content husband who loves his wife and her “*cheering.*”

III LET GO OF TRYING TO CHANGE YOUR HUSBAND

A. Letting Go

It is your job to **LOVE** your husband, it is God’s job to change him if changes are needed. You cannot take the place of the Holy Spirit (as much as we would like to do sometimes). Accept and love your husband the way he is, then talk to God about his faults and **GOD** will do the convicting.

B. To Gain

When God is “*allowed*” to do His own work, you will not only gain a changed and happier husband, but also a changed and happier **YOU**. Sometimes the change that was needed was not with your husband but with yourself.

IV LET GO OF CORRECTING YOUR HUSBAND VERBALLY

A. Letting Go

Yes, there are times when he is wrong - maybe numerous! BUT, if he is telling a story to others and you interrupt to correct an insignificant fact, it belittles him, just as it would you if he did the same thing to you. Do not embarrass your husband by treating him like a child who cannot tell a story right or can never get any facts straight. Most of the time, the correcting makes no difference at the time, and only causes tension between husband and wife AND the friends listening. If something important needs to be corrected RIGHT THEN, reach down deep and grab hold of some discretion that is sure to be there somewhere. You can make a correction without embarrassing him, or yourself, if you are subtle enough. But before you do, ask yourself “*does correcting this fact make any difference to the outcome of the situation?*”

B. To Gain

If the wife will quit correcting her husband openly, eventually she will gain a husband who is willing to listen to her and willing to believe that she is right occasionally. She will gain a husband who enjoys having his wife with him in a group, confident that she will *“do him good and not evil all the days of her life.”* (Proverbs 31:12)

*If God has blessed you with a good husband, thank Him for doing so. The way to *“hang on”* to the husband with whom God has blessed you, is to *“let go”* of him in these ways and to love him the way he is and let God do the rest.