

HOW TO MAKE YOUR WIFE A RADIANT PERSON

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4. A radiant wife is a woman with no spiritual disfigurement.
5. A radiant wife is a woman with the glow of God upon her face.

III. HOW TO MAKE YOUR WIFE RADIANT IN GOD'S EYES

- A. A radiant wife is a woman that has been cleansed by God's Word
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 1. Praise focuses attention on character qualities.
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INTRODUCTION

It is foolish not to give instructions to a helper. It is foolish not to prepare an assistant. It is foolish not to discuss the tasks at hand. It is foolish not to help a worker do a better job. It is foolish not to provide tools, instruments and ingredients if you want quality work. It is foolish to mistreat the best person you have. It is foolish to return harshness for love. God has supplied you with a lifetime helper who works for free and even works overtime. And God's only requirement is "**make her happy.**" Now that should be easy, shouldn't it? God's only instruction is "love your wife as yourself." Wow! Did we husbands miss the mark or what! It makes one feel pretty sheepish, doesn't it? Well, let us turn that around. Let us make our wives radiant in the eyes of God.

I. THE HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITY

How to make your wife a radiant person? Let's see, what is the responsibility of a husband? We will begin with a definition of this responsibility, and you will need to memorize the definition! God's ultimate responsibility for every husband is to help his wife experience the glow of God upon her face. Let's repeat that. **God's ultimate responsibility for every husband is to help his wife experience the glow of God upon her countenance.** Who does not know what the glow of God is? Everybody knows? Nobody knows...? If you don't know, you were not on the mountain for forty days. Because if you had been with Moses on the mountain for 40 days, then you would know. His face was shining so much that he put a veil over it. That's what we are talking about, a special spiritual glow on the face of your wife.

God compares the husband's relationship with his wife to Christ's relationship with the church. The husband has to give his wife the same love and care which Christ has given to the church. God has explained the ultimate goal for the church and for wives. We find that in Ephesians 5:27, 28: "*That He may present her to Himself as a*

radiant church (or radiant wife), without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish but holy and blameless. In this way same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.” So this is our part in making our wives a radiant person. This is our responsibility.

II. DEFINITIONS OF A RADIANT WIFE

I would like to tell you what a radiant wife is. What **is** a radiant wife? We’ve just looked at your responsibility as husbands and now we will look at what the real results are supposed to be. What is a **radiant** wife? I’ll give you five definitions.

1. A radiant wife is a woman that has been cleansed by God’s Word

A radiant wife is a woman that has been _____ by God’s Word, the Bible. She daily spends time meditating and reading the Bible. She harbors no sin and she doesn’t want to do shameful things.

2. A radiant wife is a woman of Godly character.

A radiant wife is a woman of Godly character. She is not perfect, but she is ‘above reproach.’ She has a positive reputation as a woman, wife, and mother and for her service in the community.

3. A radiant wife is a woman of mature judgment

A radiant wife is a woman of mature judgment. She thinks about what things are needful and she knows what is the right thing to do at the right time. That is the woman mentioned in Proverbs 31.

4. A radiant wife is a woman with no spiritual disfigurement

A radiant wife is a woman with no spiritual disfigurement. She has no glaring short comings that come to mind. She can be recommended unconditionally for servant leadership compatible with her giftings.

5. A radiant wife is a woman with the glow of God upon her face

A radiant wife is a woman with the glow of God upon her face. If your wife is frowning a lot she does not have this glow. If she is worried a lot she does not have this glow. If she is constantly overworked and is very, very tired she does not have this glow.

We have covered:

The Husband’s Responsibility

The Definition of a Radiant Wife

Now comes: The husband’s role in making his wife radiant.

III. HOW TO MAKE YOUR WIFE RADIANT IN GOD’S EYES

A. A radiant wife is a woman that has been cleansed by God’s Word

A radiant wife is a woman that has been cleansed by God’s Word, the Bible. Allow God to cleanse your wife by His Word. It is your responsibility to provide opportunity for God to do this in her life. Does your wife spend time every day in the Word of God? Have you made that a priority for her? Does she have time to do that? How many Bible verses has she memorized so she can meditate on them? If she has memorized Scripture she can think on it when she goes shopping; wherever she is all day long she can think about these verses. You as a husband make sure that she does memorize Bible verses. Set the example by memorizing Scripture yourself. You should discuss these verses together so that she properly understands

their meaning. Do you have a time each day that you read the Bible together? In my family we read the Bible together with my wife and the children in the morning and often in the evening also. When we go to bed we read a small portion together as husband and wife.

It's a very good idea for you to take one evening a week and gather your family and just read the Bible for an hour or so, read the Bible to your wife and family. You will find that your wife and children want to do something with their hands while they are listening. Children can draw something, make a picture or do something, play a little bit with some toys while they are listening. The wife can knit or sew or do other work. They are just a little bit busy with their hands but their brains are available to listen to your reading from the Word of God. A number of very spiritual men are discovering now that women are enjoying that. The cleansing value of the Word is emphasized over and over in the Scripture. John 15:3: "*You are clean through the word which I have spoken to you.*" That is what Jesus said. John 17:17 "*Sanctify them through your truth, your word is truth.*" These verses show how God through the Bible makes us clean. If the Bible is in our mind we don't have dirty thoughts and temptations are greatly minimized. When we are full of Bible knowledge many of life's problems are solved easily because we begin to live naturally according to the Bible. The Bible makes us clean. Husbands, let us make our wives radiant through God's Word.

B. A radiant wife is a woman of _____ character

A radiant wife is a woman of Godly character. Constantly praise your wife for Godly character. Some of you are laughing. Does that mean your wife doesn't have a Godly character? Listen to this. It is very important to distinguish between praise and flattery. What's the difference between praise and flattery? Praise will motivate your wife to more godliness. Flattery will cause her to stumble. Proverbs 29:5 "*A man who flatters his neighbor (including his wife) spreads a net for his/her feet.*" Flattery usually focuses on the outward appearance and actions. Flattery is given with ulterior motives. And flattery is not always based on truth. Your wife will sense quickly if you are flattering or praising. So how can you use praise to help your wife towards Godly character?

1. Praise focuses attention on character qualities.

Flattery brings attention to physical features and the wife is not responsible for developing her physical features, God has created her that way. "You are the most beautiful woman." She didn't make herself and she can't change herself. She may have an accident and a scar on her face or some place on her body or as she ages she may think, «I'm not so nice and maybe he doesn't like me any more because I'm no longer beautiful.» Flattery brings attention to physical features. But if you praise character qualities in her life, that turns her focus to what is lasting, and what she can develop. For instance, patience is a character quality. When you have observed her in a situation that you know has been exasperating, but she has managed to be patient and kind through it, praise her for it.

2. Praise motivates your wife to concentrate on inward godliness.

"You are beautiful because of who you are on the inside." That's different from just beautiful. I remember a compliment from a young man for my wife many, many years ago. He said the following, "Your wife is so beautiful on the outside and on the inside." It was a very special _____ that showed he had been thinking about it. He had been thinking and looking at her lifestyle. Flattery motivates your wife to have pride in her physical features. Physical features change when she gets older and this makes her feel insecure. Or she sees another woman and she begins to compare, "Oh, I'm not as beautiful as she is." That robs her of peace because it brings fear of comparing all the time. On the other hand if your praise is focused on how she exhibits godliness, it will help turn her towards what is eternal, and her beauty will come from the inside to the outside—the kind of beauty that never fades.

3. Praise is telling your wife how her character is benefiting your life.

"Your patience with me is teaching me how to be patient with other people." That's a wonderful compliment. Flattery is usually given with wrong motives. Husbands, let us do our part to make our wives radiant with a Godly character.



C. A radiant wife is a woman of mature judgment

A radiant wife is a woman of mature judgment. We have five children and they are all different. They all need individual care. Then they argue when they get individual care. "How come he is getting a watch when he is 8 years old and I only got a watch when I was 10?" "It was because you could not tell time when you were 8 so you did not need a watch." So a radiant wife is a woman of mature judgment. She thinks about

things and she knows what is the right thing to do at the right time. That is the woman mentioned in Proverbs 31.

How can you help your wife to develop judgment? You need to involve her in decision making. Help her to make decisions. Give her the reasons for why you think one decision is better than another. If you make all the decisions, how will she develop in this area? On the other hand if you let her make all the decisions and give no input, you are not contributing to her life and are probably guilty of shirking your responsibilities. Often radiant Christian wives have a more mature wisdom about various purchases than their spouses do. They may not know all the details but God gives them an extra sense about it that gives them a positive or negative feeling about a purchase to be made. A wise husband will confide in his wife before making large purchases and he does well to pay close attention to her advice. A leadership team of a godly husband and a radiant wife ministering together makes for deeper and more targeted ministry possibilities. Husbands let us make our wives radiant with mature judgment.

D. A radiant wife is a woman with no spiritual disfigurement

A radiant wife is a woman with no spiritual disfigurements. Whenever we think about people our thoughts usually fall into 3 categories. This happens automatically. Just think about any person and what is the very first thought that comes to mind? Either it is a happy thought that brings a smile and some joyful pleasant memory, or a negative thought of "oh no not about her again?" Or a third possibility is that of ambivalence wondering, "What will she be like this time. What mood will she be in. Well I'll have to wait and see and act accordingly." These are the 3 _____. One of anticipated delight about a possibly renewed contact, one about a repugnant feeling that tends to delay future contact as long as possible, and one with a more uncertain feeling of "Well, this is the way life is." A "we'll see" attitude.

What are people's responses to your wife? Do you see others accepting her, looking forward to being with her, being nurtured from her example and friendship? Or are there weak areas that even cause a stumbling block for others. Think about it as you observe others. Sometimes it is hard for us to see any fault in those we love. And your purpose is not to find fault, but to develop a plan to help your wife in areas of weakness. Pray about it. What can you do? Sometimes the best and only thing is to lift it up to the Lord in prayer. Other times you may be able to encourage her as she becomes conscious of these things.

Glaring disfigurements are usually either made worse or alleviated through the spiritual attitude and relationship of the husband to his wife. I tend to believe that Adam was negligent of Eve during the time she was tempted. Adam in my opinion had not provided enough spiritual protection for Eve. Immorality — which this was, an immoral engagement with satan, Eve had an immoral relationship with satan — should not occur if a husband has fulfilled and met all his wife's needs. When things are right a wife is to be completely fulfilled in her husband.

A church leader's responsibility is to help his wife overcome any glaring short comings she may have. Part of the sacred trust and responsibility of marriage is to create a godly relationship with your wife, and through that the scripture says, to secure an offspring of spiritual children and grandchildren. A disfigurement or short coming is anything that stands out in a negative abrasive and offensive way. It might be a dirty home, lack of disciplined children, argumentativeness, unthoughtfulness, or lack of love for Christ to name just a few.

Your wife is supposed to be the richest woman on earth and her gold mine is to be you, her husband. The church leader/husband is to be a man with limitless spiritual resources on which she can draw to overcome each and every one of her short comings. Revelation 3:18. The husband should be available to his wife as Christ is to the church. Revelation 3:20. Husbands let us make our wives radiant without spiritual disfigurements.

E. A radiant wife is a woman with the glow of God upon her face

A radiant wife is a woman with the glow of God on her face. If your wife is frowning a lot, she does not have this glow. If she is worried a lot, she does not have this glow. If she is constantly overworked and is very, very tired, she does not have this glow. There may be many family maladies that will rob her of having the glow of God upon her face. But it is not in the physical circumstances that her spiritual joy and radiance lay.

I know of a family with 20 year-old boy in the physical and mental shape of a two year-old. It is a large family and they _____ the radiance of Christ. They are involved in several fulltime spiritual ministries plus happily caring for and loving this invalid for 20 years. Can you imagine this lifetime burden? There are many testimonies about families who consider their handicapped children a special gift from God. It is the most special treasure that they have received from God. It helped them to focus on the deeper eternal

values. These families developed a striking Godly radiance that has been a stunning testimony in their church and community.

A radiant wife is a wife who has an all-encompassing victory over her circumstances, conflicts and difficulties in her daily life. It is the sweet woman who always has the resource to give just a little bit more, to just share one more extra little thing. She has conquered discontent and lives in a “heavenly place” amidst the degrading circumstances of the other earthlings around her. In the book of Hebrews we read about “the second rest,” and she is the one who has found it. Husbands, let us make our wives radiant with the glow of God upon their faces.

IV. IDEAS ON HOW TO MAKE YOUR WIFE RADIANT

I want to give you a few ideas about how to make your wife more radiant. First some ideas of how to praise, then we'll give you a list of character traits. Since radiance flows out of a Godly character, it's important to develop many of these character traits. You need to memorize this list that we will give you. Then you need to take each word and think of the specific way in which your wife has demonstrated it and then you can praise her for it. Praise is the husband's power behind the assistance he provides for his wife.

Here are some examples:

Alertness. “You were very alert to notice that the clerk in the store didn't give you all the ~~correct change~~*groceries*.” Someone made a mistake and she was alert.

Next is *attentiveness*. “Your attentiveness to others and me is an example for me to be more attentive to people. You are always so focused even when one of the children is talking to you. You listen so well.” Attentiveness.

Next is *availability*. “Thank you for being so willing to drop what you are doing and help me with my needs. I know it interferes with your plans, but it is such a blessing to me.” That is availability.

Next is *boldness*. “I admire your boldness in appealing to the storeowner or to the kiosk man to put away the pornography from this table.” That's boldness.

These were just some illustrations of how you can focus on a character trait and praise your wife when she exhibits that. We are going to give you a _____ with many more traits. Then you need to go home and think about how has your wife been using these things? We will just give you a list now without further comment.

<i>Committed</i>	<i>Friendly</i>
<i>Confident</i>	<i>Joyful</i>
<i>Consistent</i>	<i>Optimistic</i>
<i>Content</i>	<i>Peaceful</i>
<i>Courageous</i>	<i>Purposeful</i>
<i>Creative</i>	<i>Resourceful</i>
<i>Decisive</i>	<i>Secure</i>
<i>Determined</i>	<i>Temperate</i>
<i>Discerning</i>	<i>Thrifty</i>
<i>Efficient</i>	<i>Virtuous</i>

It may be good for you to use a dictionary at home and look at these words. What do these words really mean? A number of you do not have a lot of education, but one of the best things you can do is look at definitions in a dictionary. It will be like an education for you.

You can add to this list as you sense your personal family needs. You can also add or use several character assignments found throughout the [New Life for Churches CBLT](#) courses. You may wish to share some of your homework assignments with your dear wife and work on some character development together. Doing this will provide for very stimulating discussions as you grow and develop together with her. The radiant glow of God upon your wife's face can be your gift to her.

CONCLUSION

Your wife probably has been putting many of these virtues into practice already. For all of God's children there is a natural tendency to shun evil and do good. There is a natural desire to become spiritually beautiful all the time. Notice this word "natural." It refers to the new nature the Holy Spirit gives us when we are born again. All of God's children should be radiant citizens of His Kingdom first and Ukrainian Russians second.

Take this word list and look for compliments you can make about these various elements in her life. This will help her to grow. It will help her to desire to please Jesus more and more. Eventually she will probably begin to ask you to share some weaknesses or areas she needs to improve on. What an opportunity this presents for unity. You can prepare her for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up. Gently give her some ideas for improvement, pray with her and encourage her till you both become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Eph. 4:12-13.

Dear brothers, when you make your wife radiant, you will become radiant. Your ministry for Christ will blossom and become radiant. Your spiritual fruitfulness will double. Let us make our wives radiant. Let us make our families radiant. Let us make our churches radiant. Let us make our nation radiant.

We have God's grace to do it. Praise, glory and honor be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen and amen. Thank you Jesus!

Blessings to you, our dear friends!

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Practical assignment

Completed

- Bring a list next month showing 10 examples of how you have complimented your wife on developing Godly qualities in her life.

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Answer Key

- II. cleansed
- III. B. Godly; compliment;
D. categories;
E. exude;
- IV. list