

# To Love Their Husbands ~ Continued . . .

Last week we learned that one way that the Lord wants us to learn how to love our husbands is to be affectionate to them. We learned of the importance of speaking kind words, and doing kind gestures. Today we are going to learn the importance that friendship plays in the manner in which we are to love our husbands.

Turn with me to Titus 2:3-5 and let's remind ourselves of the many good things that God wants us to be learning from the older women in our lives. The second "thing" on this list is "to love their husbands."

What have we learned so far about how to love our husbands?

Today we are going to learn what it means to be a good friend to them.

Let's look at some of the things that God's Word has to say about the concept of friendship and discover how we are to apply these principles to the love relationship that we are supposed to have with our husbands:

## 1. "*A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*" *Proverbs 17:17*

It might interest you to know that the word *friend* here means "more or less a close associate; like a husband (or wife)". The first part of this verse is teaching us that those of us that have close relationships with other people (marriage and family) should realize that it is our **Christian duty** to love them *at all times*.

Is it easy to love those that are close to us at all times? When it is especially tough to do this?

Let's look at the admonition to us in the second half of this verse, "*a brother is born for adversity.*"

What do you think the word *adversity* means? It means "affliction, anguish, distress, tribulation, and trouble." Have you ever had to love your husband in the midst of adversity? Was it very easy? How were you able to do it?

## 2. "*A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*" *Proverbs 18:24*

The word *friend* here means something different in this verse, it means "to have affection for (sexually or otherwise); love, be loved." This verse is showing us that the friendship that we have in our marriage relationship should be even stronger than the ones that we have with our extended family members. Have you ever found yourself liking your parents or siblings more

than your own spouse? Do you find it easier to stand by them in times of trouble than you do your own spouse?

3. *“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.” Proverbs 27:6*

The word *friend* in this verse means the same thing as it did in the verse above. The Bible reminds us that when we correct someone that we love, it is for their own good, not for our own benefit or their destruction. Do you find yourself speaking the truth to your husband for his own good, or do you just flatter him with vain words so that you can get from him whatever you want?

4. *“Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” Proverbs 27:17*

The word *friend* here means “a close associate” and the implication is that we should be rubbing those that are closest to us in the **right way**. Believe it or not, there is supposed to be a good amount of friction going on in our marriage relationships ~ but it should be the kind that rub us in the “right way”, not the other way around. Is your husband a better man for being married to you? Is he a better Christian? A better father? A better worker?

5. *“Two are better than one: because they have a good return for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?”  
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10.*

Although this verse doesn't explicitly say the word *friend*, it is certainly implied by the use of the word two. This verse is a beautiful reminder of why God gave man a help meet (friend) in woman. First of all, she was supposed to help him in his work. Secondly, she was to help him when he is down. And lastly, she is to comfort him and keep him warm. Without a help meet, the Bible tells us that the man will have to try and deal with all of these things alone. Have you been helping your husband in these three areas? Do you help him with his work, do you encourage him when he is down, and comfort him when he needs rest? Or does your husband have to live like he is alone and try to deal with all of these things by himself? And finally, God gives us the best reason of all to be a friend . . . and that is because we are never more like Jesus than when we do it:

*“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”  
John 15:13*

I want to close this study by reminding all of us that true friendship is about giving your life away for the good of another. It's about losing, so they might gain . . . giving so they might be able to receive . . . and helping so that they might not struggle so much. It involves sacrifice, selflessness, and service. And it can only be accomplished by allowing Christ to work His way through us.

Will you be willing to lay aside your own rights and feelings and expectations, and surrender yourself to being like Christ and laying down your life for the cause of loving your husband in your marriage?

Next week we will look at what God wants us to learn about “to love their children.”

Hope to see you next week!

*Julie Fink*