



Investing in a Strong Marriage (for Wives)

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By Barry Bandara, Senior Pastor

No one plans on having a miserable marriage. Couples decide to get married because they love each other and desire a life-long, thriving relationship. So, how can we invest in a God-honoring marriage that will last? Consider these six investments that will bring a healthy return.

INVESTMENT ONE – Discover God’s Design for Marriage

God’s design for marriage has always been: one man and one woman for life! (Matthew 19:4-6) God’s math for marriage is 1+1=1. A healthy marriage has *oneness* written all over it! They will be *one* in heart, mind, direction, finances, physical intimacy, and commitment. (Genesis 2:24; Malachi 2:14-15)

INVESTMENT TWO – Commit to a Covenant Marriage

God is a Covenant God. Scripture shows us the covenants God made with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and His Church. A covenant means – *to bind together*. Read Malachi 2:13-16 to see God’s expectations. Marriage is NOT a 2-way contract between a husband and wife. It is a 3-way COVENANT between a husband, a wife, and God. God will hold you to the vows you made on your wedding day. A healthy marriage maintains those vows!

INVESTMENT THREE – Lead Your Heart

Following Proverbs 4:23 and Malachi 2:15-16 will save your marriage from destruction. Don’t follow your heart...LEAD your heart! Our heart can be so easily deceived. It needs to be lead into truth by the choices you make. Choose to pursue your husband. Choose to love him and serve him. Choose to give him your time and heart. Do this and your “feelings” for him will follow and grow.

INVESTMENT FOUR – Show Him RESPECT!

The famous 60’s song RESPECT by Aretha Franklin was actually written by a man named Otis Redding. God beat him to the punch when He said in Ephesians 5:33, “...and the wife must respect her husband.” The #1 need in a man is significance and showing your husband respect meets this need. Respect your husband by the tone and tenor of how you talk to him. Don’t dominate your husband by manipulating him with your emotions. Don’t nag, criticize, or mother him. Treat him like a man! Be his encourager, his cheerleader, and tell him often what you admire about him.

INVESTMENT FIVE – Take Care of Your Man!

Most men have a sex drive that is powerful, persistent, and normal. This is the way God has wired them. A wife is inviting trouble when she gives little attention to this or is constantly shutting him down in the area of physical intimacy. Your husband’s need for sex is no more selfish than your legitimate need for affection and romance. Invest in reading or learning about God’s view of marital sex. Our culture has taken what God has created and has turned it into something debased. God intended sex to be enjoyed, celebrated, and expected within the marital relationship. Work together to make sex into God ordained “love making”. Read Song of Solomon 4 & 7; Proverbs 5:19; I Corinthians 7:3-5.

INVESTMENT SIX – Help Your Man!

God designed the role of the wife to one of a helpmate to her husband. (Genesis 2:20-25) She is not his servant nor is she his mother. Ephesians 5:22 is not a curse from God but a way a wife shows respect to her husband in reverence for God. A godly wife gives counsel instead of nagging; advice and opinions instead of a list of demands. A smart husband listens to his wife and appreciates her gifts and abilities in making a good marriage and family into a great one.

Going Further – Resources

Recommended Books:

- *Love and Respect* by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs
- *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman
- *Loving God with All Your Mind* by Elizabeth George
- *A Women After God’s Own Heart* by Elizabeth George