

# PURE Marriage

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## The Smiths

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*"He loves me and all of my crazy business ideas, puts up with my obsession of Starbucks, accepts that the clothes in our closet must be organized by color, and finally realizes that I will always ask him to get me something the moment he sits down. Thank you for believing in me, for loving me, all of me, and for always showing me the other side of the coin. I am amazed at where God has brought us from and excited about where He is bringing us. I love you!" --Treasure*

*"I love my wife. She was the person who got me back in church, and got me to meet the person who would change my life forever. She is the nicest, most caring, and most driven person that I know. She has shown me places in this world that I have only dreamed about. I sit on the edge of my chair waiting to see what God and my wife will come up with next. I thank the Lord for the best gift that anyone could get, my wife!" --Josh*

## April Showers

*...and let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband [that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly]. Ephesians 5:33b*

### A Wife's Strategy for Marital Improvement

Wife, does it drive you crazy that your husband wants to be praised for putting his plate in the dishwasher after you have faced the throngs at Wal-Mart, cooked the meals, cleaned the house, bathed the kids, and served as a taxi driver all day? Why do men need praise, when women are often satisfied with a checked off to-do list?

The Bible says that we are both created in God's image. Men and women carry within them the characteristics of God, and He loves to be praised! In fact, we enter into His presence with thanksgiving and praise.

Are you frustrated because you cannot seem to get your husband's attention? Try to approach him in the same way that we approach God, with thanksgiving (appreciation and not nagging) and praise! When you praise your husband, you will enter into his presence (the man zone), and his ears and heart will open to you.

Does your husband continually ignore you? Maybe it is because all that he hears from you is criticism and negativity. That will not work with God or your husband. They both love to be praised and honored. When you do that, you will have their attention!

This April, shower your husband with respect and reverence, and look for ways to exceedingly:

- Notice him:** Give him your full attention.
- Regard him:** Demonstrate your high opinion of him.
- Honor him:** Hold him with high respect and esteem.
- Prefer him:** Choose him over all other people and things.
- Venerate him:** Regard him with great respect.
- Esteem him:** Admire his abilities, qualities, and achievements.
- Defer to him:** Yield respectfully to his opinion.
- Praise him:** Express approval and gratitude towards him.
- Love him:** Offer him intimacy, affection, and romance.
- Admire him:** Look at him with pleasure and warm affection.