

— THE —
COMPLETE
HUSBAND

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR
IMPROVED BIBLICAL HUSBANDING

REVISED &
EXPANDED

LOU PRIOLO

— T H E —
COMPLETE
H U S B A N D
—————

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IMPROVED BIBLICAL HUSBANDING

LOU PRIOLO


P U B L I S H I N G
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To Kimberly Diane.

Thank you, sweetheart,
for being the most wonderful “helper suitable”
a man could ever hope to have,
and for loving me in spite of my feeble attempts
to be the husband you deserve.

“Like a lily among the thorns,
so is my darling among the maidens.”
—Song of Solomon 2:2

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PREFACE TO THE REVISED AND EXPANDED EDITION

Although the Lord has been pleased to bless *The Complete Husband* beyond my greatest expectations, I have never been fully satisfied with the first edition. For one thing, I needed to address a few more subjects (such as federal headship) and expand (if not clarify) some of the original contents. I also wanted to include practical application questions and/or exercises at the end of each chapter. The book also needed a few “theological tweaks,” which I am happy to include in this revised edition.

I pray that this new and expanded volume will be a great blessing to a new generation of Christian husbands.

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I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to certain individuals whose assistance in various ways has made this publication possible.

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To Michael Rotolo, who thought up the book's title.

And to Kim Priolo, who spent countless hours behind the wheel of our Volvo driving our family here, there, and yon so that her not-so-complete husband could spend his time working on *The Complete Husband* manuscript.

Thanks to all of you!

INTRODUCTION

The book you are holding in your hand is probably going to hit you right between the eyes! It may disturb you greatly. It will, no doubt, convict you of things that you had no idea were wrong in your life. It may even make you angry—so angry that you may want to throw it against the wall or tear it to shreds. You’ll be tempted to say, “This is impossible! Nobody can consistently do the things that are written in this book!”

Let me be the first to sympathize with those sentiments. It *is impossible* for any man to consistently do what the Bible says without the assistance of the Holy Spirit’s enabling power. So if you are not a Christian—that is, if you have not put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for eternal salvation—you will not be able to properly apply the contents of this book to your life. I say that because, if you have not turned from your sin and trusted in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you don’t have the Holy Spirit, whom God gives to those who by His enabling power (His grace) repent of their sins and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. (If this sounds like you, I suggest that you immediately go to the back of the book and read appendix A: “How Can I be Saved?”) Chances are, if you are not a Christian, you will not understand much of what is written in this book, because it is based on the Bible. You may even find yourself scoffing at “the very idea” of some of what is written here. The Bible actually explains why this is: “But a natural man [i.e., a non-Christian] does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are *foolishness* to him, and he *cannot understand them*, because they are spiritually appraised” (1 Cor. 2:14).

If, however, you are a Christian and believe that the Bible is the complete and authoritative textbook that provides the answers to man's spiritual problems and the means for his behavioral changes, then you will probably not have difficulty at least *understanding* the things written in this book. You may resist the conviction that will come as you read what you know is biblical truth, but you will at least understand what you are reading. Where you will probably struggle most, however, is with the consistent application of the material contained in these pages. You will have to change some of the ways that you think and act, and develop new patterns of thinking and behavior, in order to become the kind of husband that the Bible says you should be.

God gives responsibilities to a Christian husband that are so great, they're impossible to accomplish apart from His grace. I believe the material in this volume is biblically accurate, and I, for one, desire to be the husband that God wants me to be. Yet, in the process of writing this book, I was terribly convicted about the inadequacies in my own life that need to be corrected. By God's grace I am doing so, and I plan to spend the rest of my life learning how to consistently implement all the truths contained in this book.

As you read *The Complete Husband*, remember that God never asks His children to do anything without giving them all the resources necessary to obey Him. If you are a Christian, He has already given you the Spirit to teach you (see John 16:13–15) and enable you (see John 14:16) to be a biblical husband. He also promises to give you the wisdom to do so: “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him” (James 1:5). Furthermore, “It is God Who is producing in you both *the willingness* and *the ability* to do the things that please Him” (Phil. 2:13 CCNT). Since one of the things that “pleases Him” is for you to be the kind of husband who will picture Christ's love for His church (see Eph. 5:25–32), you can be confident that He will produce in you both the willingness and the ability to do the seemingly impossible: to love your wife as Christ loves the church.

So don't get discouraged as you read. Don't expect to be able to

Introduction

change every area of your life at once. Little by little, God will give you the grace to be conformed into the image of Christ.

Let me point out that this is not a book that you *read*; rather, it is the kind of book that you *study*. It is not a pop-psychology, self-help book based on the latest psychological fad. Rather, it is a reference book of practical theology that is designed to be referred to again and again. It's a workbook designed to train Christian husbands how to implement specific biblical commands.

Finally, I have asked the publisher to typeset this book with footnotes (rather than the usual endnotes). If you are familiar with my writings, you know that there is good reason for this. I put lots of clarifying comments and other useful information in these annotations. (I've even been known to sneak in a corny joke or two.) So please try not to ignore them—at least give them a glance before you turn the page.

May God bless you and enable you as you study how to become a more mature and “complete” husband.

And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ. (Col. 1:28)

I WISH SHE CAME WITH A MANUAL

Your car came with one. So did your cell phone, your television, your stereo, your camera, and your computer. It's too bad your *wife* didn't come with an owner's manual¹ as well. Imagine how easy it would be to live with her if she came with a set of instructions—a book in which you could find everything you needed to know in order to keep her healthy, happy, and humming at optimum capacity!

If you had a manual of this kind, it would provide you with current information about women in general. It would also furnish you with such valuable data as specific product information (information about your woman in particular), proper maintenance instructions, directions on how to read her various emotional meters and gauges, regular care and cleaning instructions, how to interpret the various warnings and hazard signals, and even a comprehensive section on “How to Troubleshoot When Difficulties Arise.” But, alas, your wife is a woman, and a woman simply doesn't come with a manual—or does she?

Allow me to let you in on a little-known secret: your wife *does*, in fact, come with an operator's manual. The reason you've never seen it is because it is tucked away in her heart. Deep down in her heart is all the personal information you need in order to understand and nurture

1. The concept of bodily “ownership” is mutual in the Scriptures. “The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife” (1 Cor. 7:4 NIV). If your wife is not comfortable with this terminology, you may want to think in terms of a *maintenance manual* or *operator's manual*.

your wife according to the Bible.² There is just one catch: *you're* the one who is supposed to get it out of her. That's right—it is *your* job to get that valuable information out of her heart and, if necessary, to transcribe it onto a hard copy. “A plan [or *counsel*, KJV] in the heart of a man is like deep water, but a man of understanding draws it out” (Prov. 20:5). The responsibility for understanding your wife is given to you by God in 1 Peter 3.

“First Peter 3—I love that chapter! Isn't that the chapter that tells women to keep quiet?”

Well, sort of, but not exactly. (What verse four of the chapter essentially says is that your wife is not to overreact or panic when you are not doing everything that you should be doing.)³ But I'm not referring to those verses anyway. I want to talk to you about verse seven. “You *husbands* likewise, *live with your wives in an understanding way*, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered” (1 Peter 3:7). The Bible places the burden of understanding on you, as the husband. You're the one who must take the *initiative* to draw out of your wife the information necessary to developing and maintaining the one-flesh intimacy that God intends you to have with her. Elisabeth Elliot, in her book *The Mark of a Man*, explains this concept of the man as the initiator:

The important thing for you, as a man, to remember . . . is that a woman cannot properly be the responder, unless the man is properly the initiator. He must take the lead in order that she may follow, as in a dance. The willingness of each to perform the “steps” that have been choreographed gives the other freedom.⁴

2. Actually, the ultimate owner's manual is the Bible. All the essential information that you and your wife need in order to understand and interpret life is found in its pages (see Ps. 19:7; 2 Tim. 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:3).

3. This chapter also says, in verse one, that a woman who is married to an unbeliever (someone who is disobedient to the Word) should try to win him to Christ without a word.

4. Elisabeth Elliot, *The Mark of a Man: Following Christ's Example of Masculinity*

“All right! Fine! You’ve convinced me! So it’s my job to understand her. But how do I get this information, this *manual*, out of her heart?”

Well, to begin with, you will have to understand both the *biblical view of marriage* and the *importance of communication in marriage*.

A COVENANT OF COMPANIONSHIP

Many believe that the primary purpose of marriage is to propagate the human race. But marriage was designed by God to deal with the issue of being alone. “Then the LORD God said, ‘It is *not good* for the man *to be alone*; I will make him a *helper suitable* for him’” (Gen. 2:18; see also vv. 19–24). In his book *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Bible*, Jay Adams develops this concept further:

God made most of us so that we would be lonely without an intimate companion with whom to live. God provided Eve not only (or even primarily) as Adam’s helper (though help is also one dimension of companionship), but as his companion. He too, as all other husbands since (as we shall see), is to provide companionship for her.

In the Bible marriage is described in terms of companionship. In Proverbs 2:17, for example, we are told that “the strange [i.e., adulterous] woman . . . forsakes the *companion* of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God.” The word translated *companion* in this verse has in it the idea of “one that is *tamed*” (it is used in speaking of tame animals), or “one that has a close, *intimate* relationship to another.” It is hard to establish a close relationship with a wild animal, but one can be on close terms with a domesticated (or tame) animal. The core meaning has to do with a close, intimate relationship. And that is exactly what marriage companionship is: the close, intimate relationship of a husband and wife to one another . . .

The concept of marriage as companionship also appears in Malachi 2:14, where a different, but very complementary, term is used:

(1981; repr., Grand Rapids: Revell, 2007), 60.

The Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth to whom you have been faithless, although she is your *companion* and your wife by covenant.

Now, the word here translated “companion” has as its kernel idea that of *union* or *association*. A companion, therefore, is one with whom one enters into a *close union* (or relationship). In putting the two terms together, we come to a full sense of the idea of companionship. A companion is one with whom you are intimately united in thoughts, goals, plans, efforts (and, in the case of marriage, in bodies).

The two passages, together, make it clear that for both the husband and for the wife, companionship is the ideal. In Proverbs, the husband is called the companion (showing that he too provides companionship for his wife); in Malachi, it is the wife who is so designated. For *both*, then, entrance into marriage should mean the desire to meet each other’s need for companionship. Love, in marriage, focuses upon giving one’s spouse the companionship he/she needs to eliminate loneliness.⁵

In order to practically develop, maintain, and nurture this companionship, something of great significance is required, which we will consider next.

REVELATION IS A PREREQUISITE TO A RELATIONSHIP

Have you ever stopped to consider that, were it not for the Bible, you wouldn’t be able to have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ? Think about it: if it weren’t for God’s written *revelation* of Himself to man, you simply would not be able to know how to become a Christian. To the extent that He reveals Himself to you through the Bible (and you understand that revelation), you are able have an

5. Jay E. Adams, *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980), 11–12.

intimate relationship with Him. If He had not revealed Himself to you through the Bible (or if you misunderstood that revelation), you would not be able to have a personal relationship with Him. Revelation, therefore, is a prerequisite for having a relationship. This is true not only of your relationship with God but also of your relationship with people.

To the same degree that two people reveal themselves to each other, they will be able to have an intimate relationship with each other. To the extent that two people refuse or neglect to reveal themselves to each other, their ability to have an intimate relationship with each other will be hindered. Now, since marriage is the *most intimate* of interpersonal relationships, it stands to reason that a husband and wife, if they are to experience the “one flesh” intimacy (i.e., companionship) that God intends, ought to reveal themselves *more* to each other than to anyone else. On every level (physically, intellectually, emotionally, and so on) they should be “naked and unashamed” (see Gen. 2:25). Sadly, this is too often not the case. Indeed, because of sin, husbands and wives are ashamed and afraid to reveal themselves to each other. This lack of openness and honesty, this lack of revelation, keeps many—I daresay most—couples (yes, even most Christian couples) from experiencing the security, refreshment, and bliss that God intended for them to have within the oasis of marriage.

How about you? To what extent do you reveal yourself to your wife? Are you ashamed and afraid to do so? Do fear, selfishness, pride, laziness, or ignorance keep you from disclosing to your wife all the necessary information about yourself that she must have in order to be your helper (see Gen. 2:18)?

To what extent does your wife reveal herself to you? Is she ashamed or afraid to do so? What would you say prevents her from disclosing herself to you?

HINDRANCES TO REVELATION

There are several things that commonly prevent couples from “pulling back the curtain” and exposing their true selves to each other. Among them are the following.

1. Fear

Perhaps the greatest hindrance to revelation is fear.

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of Thee in the garden, and *I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.*” (Gen. 3:7–10)

Adam and Eve were stricken with fear and hid themselves from God when they realized their own nakedness. So also, husbands and wives are often stricken with fear and hide their true selves from each other when they consider the sinfulness of their own hearts. Christian couples who are “one flesh” with each other and who are committed to each other’s mutual sanctification ought not to fear such embarrassment and rejection. Indeed, they should have realized long ago that, in a marriage of two sinners, both parties would sin. Rather than being surprised when sin occurs, they ought to presuppose that it’s inevitable (see 1 John 2:1). Rather than concealing sin from each other, they ought to feel free to reveal their struggles with indwelling sin to each other in the hope of finding assistance to overcome it. The husband, as the one who is to *wash* (i.e., sanctify) his wife with the water of God’s Word (see Eph. 5:26), and the wife, as her husband’s *helper*, are to actively participate in each other’s progressive sanctification process.

2. Selfishness⁶

There is a very real corollary in the Bible between sinful fear and selfishness. People who are selfish tend to be fearful. People who are

6. Material throughout this section has been adapted from both Lou Priolo, *Fear: Breaking Its Grip* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2009), 15–16, and Lou Priolo, *Selfishness:*

fearful are necessarily selfish. Perhaps the best way to demonstrate this is by studying the antithesis of both sins. According to the Scriptures, the opposite of (and antidote to) sinful fear is *love*. First John 4:18 explains, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.”

But love is also the opposite of (and antidote to) the sin of selfishness. According to 1 Corinthians 13:5, love “does not seek its own”—i.e., it is not selfish. Try looking at it as an equation.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Fear} & \text{is the opposite of} & \text{Love} \\ \hline \text{Love} & \text{is the opposite of} & \text{Selfishness} \end{array}$$

Now watch what happens when you factor out the love from both sides of the equation.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Fear} & \text{is the opposite of} & \text{Love} & = & \text{Fear} \\ \hline \text{Love} & \text{is the opposite of} & \text{Selfishness} & = & \text{Selfishness} \end{array}$$

Yet another way to demonstrate the same biblical relationship between fear and selfishness is by definition. Consider these working definitions:

- *Love* is being more concerned with what I can *give* than with what I can *get*.
- *Selfishness* is being more concerned with what I can *get* than with what I can *give*.
- *Fear* is being more concerned with what I might *lose* than with what I can *give*.

From Loving Yourself to Loving Your Neighbor (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2010), 12—two guides to learning more about the relationship between sinful fear and selfishness.

When you allow fear of your wife's rejection to keep you from loving her, by not revealing to her that which is biblically necessary for her to know about you, you are being *selfish*. You are, at that moment, more concerned about how such a revelation may somehow hurt you than about how it may help your wife. When you fail to love your wife (your closest neighbor) in this way, you simultaneously fail to love God, and thus you break the first and second greatest commandments (to love God and your neighbor—see Matt. 22:35–40).

3. Pride

The sin of pride carries with it God's swiftest and most severe judgment. It blinds you to other sins in your life and hinders you from repenting of them.

Pride is the “Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome” (AIDS) of the soul. If a person dies as a result of contracting AIDS, he does not really die of AIDS. Rather, he dies of AIDS-complicated illnesses (such as pneumonia, tuberculosis, meningitis, and so on). Not unlike a cataract, the AIDS virus effectively blinds the eyes of its victim's bodily defense system. This prevents his autoimmune system from seeing and consequently destroying those deadly pathogens that ultimately kill him.

Like AIDS, pride blinds you not only to itself, but to every other sin tucked away in the recesses of your heart and life. It causes you to *hate* correction and reproof. It *hides* your sin from you, it *justifies* your sin, it *excuses* your sin, and it *keeps* you from *repenting* of your sin. It *deceives* you into thinking that you are spiritually well when, in fact, you have a deadly cancer and are in desperate need of the Great Physician's cure.

Listen to Richard Baxter, the prolific Puritan writer, describe (in my updated English) the pathology of this horrible plague of the soul.

Pride is a deep rooted and a self-preserving sin; and therefore is harder to be killed and rooted up than other sins. It hinders the discovery of itself. . . . It will not allow the sinner to see his pride when he is reproved; neither will it allow him to confess it if he sees it; nor . . .

to loathe himself and forsake it. . . . Even when he recognizes all of the evidences of pride in others, he will not see it in himself. When he feels himself despising reproof, and knows that this is a sign of pride in others, yet he will not know it in himself. If you would go about to cure him of this or any other fault, you shall feel that you are handling a wasp or an adder; yet when he is spitting the venom of pride against the reprover, he does not perceive that he is proud; this venom is a part of his nature and therefore is not felt as harmful or poisonous.⁷

Before the fall, Adam and Eve were both *naked* and *unashamed* (see Gen. 2:25). These terms do not refer only to the fact that they weren't wearing any clothing. They primarily speak of the total *openness*, *honesty*, and *frankness* that they enjoyed before their pride caused them to cover their sins. In the final analysis, what keeps a husband and wife from enjoying this "one flesh" intimacy that Adam and Eve knew in the garden of Eden is pride. It is your pride that holds you back from revealing those things to your wife about which you are ashamed. Because she is your wife, she has a "biblical need to know" certain things about your life that affect your relationship with her. Because she is your suitable helper,⁸ she has a "biblical need to know" about certain things in your life that affect your relationship with God. (If God wants your believing wife to help you with anything, it is to help you to be a better Christian!) When you proudly resist revealing these things to her, you sin against God, against you wife, and against your marriage.

4. Laziness

If you are going to take God's commands to you as a husband seriously, you will need to invest a considerable amount of time, effort, and thought into studying and implementing those specific Scripture

7. See Richard Baxter, *Baxter's Practical Works*, vol. 1, *A Christian Directory* (Ligonier, PA: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1990), 207.

8. I.e., she is a helper who has been suited (or tailor-made) for you by God.

passages I have tried to delineate in this book. It is likely that you will have to change the way you think, act, speak, and prioritize your responsibilities. You may have to change from being a feeling⁹-oriented person, who does what he feels like doing and doesn't do what he doesn't feel like doing, to an obedience-oriented person, who does what is biblically required whether he feels like doing it or not. These changes will be difficult at first—but remember, there is something harder than changing: not changing. Proverbs 13:15 says, “The way of the unfaithful is *hard*” (NKJV). So you have a choice: hard work now with the hope of God's blessing in the future, or an “easy” way now with the probability of a hard road to travel under God's discipline in the future.¹⁰

5. Ignorance

Have you ever stopped to consider that man was dependent on God for counsel *even before he fell into sin*? Adam needed God's wisdom in the garden of Eden when he was still in his unfallen state. How much more do you need His wisdom today, as you attempt to love your wife and live with her in an understanding way?

Now, if you still believe that understanding your wife is an impossibility, it may be because you are ignorant not only of the *Scriptures*, but also of the *power of God*. Jesus once said, about another matter, “Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures, or the power of God?” (Mark 12:24).

First, you may not realize that the Scriptures direct (i.e., charge) you to understand your wife. First Peter 3:7 is not a hint, a recommendation, or a suggestion. It is a *command*. In other words, you *must* learn how to understand your wife! If you are a Christian, you can do (and can learn to do) all things through Him who strengthens you (see Phil. 4:13).

This leads us to the second thing about which you may be

9. Perhaps the greatest enemy of an undisciplined (or lazy) person is his feelings.

10. For more on what it means to be faithful and on how to deal effectively with laziness, see Lou Priolo, *Faithfulness: No More Excuses* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2016).

uninformed: you may not understand the power (or grace) of God. Whenever you see a command, such as this one in the Bible, that seems almost impossible to obey, you should remember that God never asks a Christian to obey Him without providing three powerful resources.

God promises to give you the wisdom to obey Him. “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him” (James 1:5). If you don’t know how to obey, ask God to teach you. This promise is foremost because it is usually necessary to know *how* to obey God before you are *able* to do so.

God promises to give you the ability to change. “It is God who is at work in you, both to will and to *work* for His good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13). As you step out in faith to *obey* what God has directed you to do in His Word, He provides the enabling power (the grace) necessary for you to *do* even that which may once have seemed impossible. James says that the doer of the Word will be “blessed *in the process* of doing” (see James 1:25).

God promises to give you the desire to change. “It is God who is at work in you, both to *will* and to work for His good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13). It is *after* you’ve obeyed that directive, which God has given you the wisdom and ability to obey, that you will likely experience the *desire* to walk in obedience to Scripture.

All three of these promises are made only to Christians, who, in dependence on His Spirit and in conjunction with His Word, receive and implement them.¹¹ As you continue reading this book, you will learn how you can better understand your wife and how you can, by His grace, better fulfill your biblical responsibilities to her.

11. It is only by grace (by the supernatural desire and ability to obey God) that followers of Jesus Christ can implement the directives of Scripture.

“CAN I KEEP A HARD COPY OF THE MANUAL?”

Yes—but I suggest that you do so only with your wife’s approval.¹²

At the end of chapters 2 through 13 you will find an *insert page* on which you may record what you are learning about your wife. Each page has been designed to help you apply the biblical principles that were discussed in that chapter. You will, of course, need input from your wife in order to fill in most of them. The pages may be photocopied (and enlarged) before completion, whereupon they may be placed in a looseleaf notebook for future perusal and revisions. This 1 Peter 3:7 notebook can become the initial hard copy of your wife’s operations manual.

Whether you choose to make a hard copy of the manual or not, you will benefit greatly from mentally filling in the insert pages at the end of each chapter.

12. Your wife may not be comfortable with the idea of your keeping a journal of what you’re learning about her—especially if you’ve given her reason not to trust you in the past. If this is the case, simply do the best you can to apply and remember what you are learning about her as you read this book.

WHAT IS A COMPLETE HUSBAND LIKE?

Well, for one thing, he doesn't back down from a challenge!

God has given husbands huge, weighty responsibilities in marriage—after all, they are imitating the role of Jesus himself! To be the kind of husband he wants you to be, you'll have to radically change how you think and act. . . . It's not for the faint of heart!

Experienced counselor Lou Priolo takes a frank look at the skills, goals, and attitudes that husbands must develop—and then offers comprehensive guidance on how to do so. This newly revised and expanded manual for Christian husbands will give you practical advice and materials on how to best communicate with, please, protect, and lead your wife.

So take an honest look at this book and at yourself, sit down with your wife, and get the discussion started on how you can be a godly, complete husband.

“Fills a large, empty space on the pastor's and parent's resource shelf. It is simple without being shallow and comprehensive without being tedious. A man will find solid, biblical counsel here on how to know and love his wife. A book to read and return to often.”

—**TEDD TRIPP**, Author of *Shepherding a Child's Heart* and *Instructing a Child's Heart*

“A great book about being a great husband. And now, with its updated text, plus application questions and exercises, it's even better.”

—**AMY BAKER**, Instructor and Counselor at Faith Biblical Counseling Ministries

“This practical book helps husbands to love their wives as Christ loves his church, treating such topics as loving leadership, communication, and sexual relations. Oh—and wives are encouraged to read it also.”

—**JAY ADAMS**, Author of *Competent to Counsel* and *The Christian Counselor's Manual*

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