

No. 28 Show Respect and Love in Your Marriage

PLEASE NOTE: Focus on practical ways to show respect and love. Avoid characterizing men and women based on stereotypes, and be careful not to trivialize the subject with undue humor. If you wish, you may use the artwork provided to illustrate points where indicated

MANY MARRIAGES LACK RESPECT AND LOVE (3 min.)

The Bible foretold that people today would be “lovers of themselves” and would lack “natural affection” (2Ti 3:1-3)

Sadly, selfish behavior can be seen in many marriages

In contrast, the Bible urges husbands and wives to show respect and love in their marriage
[Read Ephesians 5:33]

HOW CAN YOU SHOW RESPECT IN YOUR MARRIAGE? (12 min.)

Respect is high esteem for someone based on that person's qualities

A respectful person values others and seeks to understand their feelings (w11 8/1 10)

A husband has a particular need for respect (g16.6 8 ¶4)

A wife needs respect too (1Pe 3:7; g16.6 8 ¶5)

Show respect by how you speak [Read Proverbs 12:18] [Image 1]

[Discuss how couples can show respect by their speech. See the *Watch Tower Publications* Index entry “Marriage,” subheading “Respect in”]

Show respect by your actions [Read Philippians 2:3, 4] [Image 2]

[Discuss how couples can show respect by their actions. See *Awake!* No. 6 2016, page 9]

HOW CAN YOU SHOW LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE? (12 min.)

The Bible describes how love acts (1Co 13:4-7)

Genuine love is shown by a pattern of unselfish actions (1Co 10:24)

Husbands and wives need regular reassurance that they are loved

Rather than demand love, ask yourself, ‘What can I do to help my mate feel closer to me?’

Show love by being a good listener [Read James 1:19] [Image 3]

[Discuss how couples can improve how they listen to each other. See *Awake!* of December 2013, page 13]

Show love by expressing appreciation [Read Ephesians 4:29] [Image 4]

[Discuss how couples can show that they value each other. See *Awake!* No. 1 2017, page 15]

THE BIBLE IS A RELIABLE GUIDE (3 min.)

There is no such thing as a perfect marriage; all husbands and wives make mistakes (Jas 3:2)

The Bible's reliable guidance helps couples to build a strong, happy marriage despite their imperfections [Read Colossians 3:13, 14]

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.

Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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