

Wisdom For New Brides



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Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, King James Version, Cambridge, 1769.

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As a woman over eleven years into my second marriage, I have learned a few useful things that help make a happy marriage:

- ❖ Learn to choose your battles- confront the important things, and let the little things go.
- ❖ Learn your place in the marriage- you are your husband's helper, not his ruler nor his servant.
- ❖ Always remember that it does not matter who disapproves of your marriage- God joined you with this man in marriage for a reason.
- ❖ And never forget to keep God as the center of your marriage. With Him on your side, your marriage only can thrive!

I have learned another bit of information that although is very helpful, it is seldom discussed. The value of girlfriends. Of course, your husband is your greatest ally and confidant, but he cannot fulfill all your needs. No human can do that, only God can. But, having women friends in your life to laugh, cry, pray and rejoice with you is special. They understand things that even the most compassionate man cannot understand, such as crying in moments of joy, or the challenges of mentally changing roles from Mommy to Wife when your husband is feeling amorous, after you nursed a sick baby all day.

I have many very special girlfriends in my life, and I am honestly not sure where I would be without them! To name only a few, Rhonda, Teresa, Pat and Andrea are always there for me to offer support, understanding, advice and laughs whenever I need them. Yes, my husband is there for me too, but he does not always understand my feelings and needs like my girlfriends do. By having these wonderful ladies in my life, I am able to learn things I might not learn elsewhere, find support when my husband is unable to

give it, and feel more complete. All things that make me a better person, and a better wife to my husband.

Rhonda taught me ways to cope with abuse I had suffered in my past.

Teresa reminds me always to look to God, which she does in all circumstances.

Pat and I share a love of crafts and animals, and she has taught me plenty about raising our dogs. In fact, she is directly responsible for us having one our adorable little American Eskimo dog, Dixie.

Andrea, my cousin's wife, shares my love of books and writing. She also has a great way with words, which is teaching me ways to speak to my husband on those occasions he hurts me. I never have been good at being able to speak up about my hurt, instead just burying the feelings inside. Very unhealthy! She shows me that it is ok to speak up (using wisdom of course, which goes back to that choosing your battles subject I mentioned previously), and how to phrase my feelings.

Yet in spite of the wonderful education I gain from these dear friends, there is more to our relationships than that. We also have fun. We make jokes, tell funny stories, exchange funny pictures and more. I often send pictures to Pat's email of Dixie. Since she helped us adopt her, I keep her amused with stories of Dixie's latest antics as well as adorable pictures of her. Andrea always has amusing stories of her husband and kids to share with me, like the time the kids made Christmas ornaments, and my cousin used their glitter to write "I love you" on the window over the kitchen sink. My point is that these dear girlfriends of mine help keep me sane by offering me love, understanding and support. Of course, so does my husband. But, there is something indescribably special about having close women friends. Jesus Himself had many female friends during His brief time on the earth. He understood the value of female friendships. Shouldn't this be yet one more valuable lesson we can learn from our Lord?

I would like to close by encouraging you. If you are a new bride thinking that your husband is all you need, please do not think that way! It puts too much pressure on him, and sets you up to be disappointed when he cannot meet all your needs! It is time for you to call up an old friend you lost touch with after high school, or maybe join a craft class to meet new girlfriends. You will be glad you did!