

Praising Your Spouse Proverbs 31:28, 29

- I. From “tearing down” to “building up;”
 - A. Jim’s negative remarks
 - B. Karen’s response
 - C. “Let’s talk about the effect of your words,”
Proverbs 12:18, 15:1, 16:24; Ephesians 4:29
 - D. Jim’s desire to practice Proverbs 31:28
 - E. Karen’s response to words of praise
- II. Becoming a praiser of your spouse
 - A. Overcome fear of praising your spouse, John 5:44,
12:43; I Corinthians 4:5, 11:2.
 - B. Give attention to motivating your spouse,
Hebrews 10:24.
 - 1. Reject the use of “ridicule”(making another an object of laughter).
 - 2. Remove the negative by praise.
 - a. Not an attempt to manipulate; “manipulate”- to control or play upon by artful, unfair or insidious means for one’s own advantage.
 - b. A sincere desire to motivate; “motivate”- to provide with a reason for acting.
 - 3. Praise builds self-appreciation, self-love.
 - a. Self-love frees us to love others, Matthew 22:39.
 - b. Praise stimulates another’s self-love. Then, they give more love.
 - 4. People rise to the level of your praise.
 - a. Snorkeling in Cozumel
 - b. “Dive for that shell. You can do it!”
 - c. I attempt the impossible.
 - C. Distinguish between your spouse’s person and performance.
 - 1. God hates human sin but loves human beings,
Romans 5:8; I John 4:9.
 - 2. Praise concentrates upon a person’s value to God.
God regards your spouse as His property,
Proverbs 19:14.
 - 3. Disapprove of people’s performance without attacking their person, John 8:11.
 - 4. Praise appreciates another’s effort even if they fail.
- III. Become generous with your praise.

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