



# DAMAGING PERSPECTIVES



The chart is a description of damaging perspectives between a working husband and a stay-at-home wife. Many couples do very well in this arrangement. It is one that we highly encourage, especially when there are children at home. The goal of the chart is for husbands and wives to have a better understanding of each other and demonstrate godliness.

These perspectives are observations from a multitude of couples. If you identify with one or more perspective, allow God to show you a healthier and more godly view. This chart is not describing one particular couple, but a pattern compiled from observing many couples.

Damaging perspective	Renewed perspective
<p><b>WIVES</b> A lack of appreciation and respect for the burden of providing for the family.</p>	<p>For most men, the drive to provide is so deeply rooted that almost nothing can relieve their sense of duty. * <i>The wife must respect her husband.</i> Ephesians 5:33</p>
<p>A lack of understanding about how much a man needs order &amp; peace when gets home.</p>	<p>God makes the care and climate of the home a priority for wives. Proverbs 31:12,27; Titus 2:4-5</p>
<p>An unrealistic expectation of husband to initiate couple time, taking care of sitter, etc. while providing for the family.</p>	<p>Men also have a desire for romance, but will abandon all attempts of initiating if criticized by his wife.</p>
<p>Not encouraging or speaking positively to her husband and to others about who he is and what he does for his family. She criticizes, degrades him or shares personal information about their conflicts with friends or family.</p>	<p>Men need affirmation no matter how strong and confident they appear on the outside. <i>Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building up others according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.</i> Ephesians 4:29</p>
<p><b>HUSBANDS</b> Thinks that providing materially for his family is a sufficient expression of love.</p>	<p>A husband is to love his wife sacrificially. He is to care for her as he would his own body. He is to use his physical strength to protect his wife. Ephesians 5:25, 28, 33; 1 Peter 3:7</p>
<p>Believes his only responsibility is providing for the family and rearing the children is the wife's responsibility.</p>	<p>Children need the involvement and discipline of the father and mother. Proverbs 1:8, 6:20; Hebrews 12:7-10</p>
<p>Not respecting his wife's position and opinion, having the attitude that since he earns the money, he should make all the decisions about finances, not working as a team.</p>	<p>God is their provider. The husband and wife have different roles but each is equally important. God wants them to work as "one flesh," both seeking Him and making the decisions together under His guidance. Gen 2:24; Psalm 24:1; Matt. 24:14-30</p>
<p>Believes that since the wife is home all day, she should have the house cleaned and dinner cooked every day by the time he gets home.</p>	<p>Not understanding that when there are preschoolers at home, it is difficult to keep the house clean, etc. and watch the children. If the children are school age, there is the after-school disarray &amp; taking them to extra-curricular activities.</p>

\*For Women Only by Shaunti Feldhahn  
Donna Edwards ©2005 dedwards@livingwellokc.org