



- 1. Listen.**

To be truly heard is the longing of every human heart and your wife is no exception. It sounds simple, but listening can be harder than it seems with so many distractions around us and within us. Set aside some time each and every day to look into your wife's eyes and really listen to what she has to say. You may be surprised at what you hear.
- 2. Communicate.**

Don't make her guess what you are thinking or feeling.
- 3. Sing her praises.**

Shamelessly brag about her good qualities, and then quietly pray about her bad ones. Her reputation is your reputation.
- 4. Intimacy is a two way street.**

Unfortunately, men are notoriously selfish in the bedroom, yet are dumbfounded when their wives are less than enthusiastic in this arena. Make this area of your relationship as pleasurable for her as it is for you and it will pay huge dividends. It may mean washing the dishes or helping with the kids, so that she has energy left at the end of the day. It may mean cuddling and candlelight, so that she can relax and let the worries on her mind drift away. If you aren't sure where to begin, just ask her, and then listen.
- 5. Pray with her and for her.**

Praying on her behalf, not only enlists the help of the Almighty, but also puts her and her needs at the forefront of your heart and mind, right where they belong. Furthermore, couples who regularly pray together, stay together, enjoying a 1% divorce rate compared to the usual rate of 50% or more.
- 6. Value her for who she is.**

Don't compare her to your mom, or your ex-wife, or your old girlfriend. Your mom may make the best chocolate chip cookies in the world, but unfavorable comparisons won't win you brownie points.
- 7. Put the toilet seat back down.**

Pet peeve of wives everywhere. And while you're at it, tidy up a bit. A little consideration goes a long way.
- 8. Throw your dirty clothes in the hamper.**

It is likely just a few steps from wherever you are dropping them anyway and it lets her know you don't think she is your personal maid.
- 9. Turn off the T.V.**

And the video games and the computer. It is staggering how many hours we waste gazing at some kind of screen instead of interacting with the real people in our lives. Consciously, set limits on your tube time, whatever form it takes. Go for a walk together or play a board game instead.

10. **Loosen the purse strings.**
We all have to keep an eye on our budget, but the occasional splurge can be well worth it. Seemingly frivolous things like flowers, jewelry, and overpriced restaurants let her know that she is more valuable to you than a number in your bank account.
11. **Give her regular time to herself.**
Everyone needs to rest and recharge. This is especially important if she is home all day with young children. It is very easy to neglect this legitimate need unless you intentionally schedule time for it.
12. **Set aside time together.**
Soak in the tub together each evening or go on a date night once a week, whatever gets the two of you alone on a regular basis.
13. **Be careful with female friendships.**
We all have friends and colleagues of the opposite sex, but tread cautiously, not all affairs are physical ones.
14. **Practice good hygiene.**
It is amazing how meticulous guys can be prior to marriage trying to impress the girls, but once they walk down the aisle, all bets are off. Clean up a little, it won't kill you, I promise.
15. **Limit the gross stuff.**
Women don't seem to find burping, farting, and mooning nearly as hilarious as we guys do.
16. **Be patient.**
In whatever way this applies, apply it.
17. **Cherish her children.**
It's a guarantee she does. When you invest time or energy in them, you are investing in her as well. Kindness to them counts as kindness to her.
18. **Choose her over hobbies and buddies.**
Invariably there will come times in your relationship when you will be forced to choose between her and something else that you enjoy. Always choose her.
19. **Actively seek her insights.**
Then value her input and give it a preferential place in your decision making process.
20. **Learn to forgive.**
The past, the present, even the future. Forgiveness is at the heart of the gospel and at the heart of every meaningful relationship. It is only when we love people after they have failed us or hurt us that we truly know how deeply we love them.
21. **Be a Servant Leader.**
All organizations have a hierarchy. It's impossible to function without one, but being a leader isn't the same as being a dictator. The best role model is Jesus Christ, not Joseph Stalin. Jesus washed his disciples feet and then died on their behalf. Who wouldn't want to follow that kind of leader?
22. **Provide.**
This is so much more than just putting food on the table. It is all encompassing. Whether it is physical needs, emotional needs, spiritual needs, or you name it do your best to provide. Sometimes life's circumstances hinder us in one area, but we can compensate in another area. Often the effort is as important as the outcome.
23. **Dial down the anger.**
Your caveman instincts are handy on the battlefield, but horrible for a happy home life. Every outburst or flare-up is a relationship setback. To go forward, the first step is to stop going backwards. Learn to control your temper or it will control you, your marriage, and every other aspect of your life. Just because your wife puts up with it and your co-workers tolerate it, doesn't make your short fuse an asset. Do whatever it takes to gain victory in this all-important struggle that has haunted man since Cain slew Abel.
24. **Cut out the condescension.**
If you have been blessed with a quick wit, you can either be the life of the party or a pain in the neck depending on the circumstances. Condescension is anger's younger brother. It isn't as loud or as dramatic, but it can be equally hurtful and all the more so for its subtlety. Lay off the snide remarks, the sarcasm, and the belittling. Speak to your wife the way you would a respected colleague. She is, after all, your partner in the most valuable investment of your life, your family.
25. **Verbally express your love.**
There are lots of ways to show your love, but women still like to hear it spoken.