

THE ART OF PERSUASION

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Many women lost their husbands simply because they do not know how to get their husbands to see with them what they see. They were very authoritative in their requests. They spoke as the head and leader of the home rather than the led. When their desires and request are not granted, the house is turned into a war zone. This is so because they have not learnt how to get into the heart of their man and get them to reason along with them and grant their request. Some tried and still try sex denial which drives men outside their marriage for sexual satisfaction, and found out that it doesn't pay but causes more problems. There are many today that have not learnt that quarrels and fights destroy love and intimacy and produce bitterness and hate rather than get their husbands to agree with them on issues.

Eph 5:22-24

22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

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Eph 5:33

33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

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1 Peter 3:8-9

8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

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Ignorance and stubbornness has caused many women to lose the sweetness of their marriages and in some cases, lose their husbands to another. I want to introduce you to a method that has been tested and found to be more effective in communicating a wife's desire to her husband. It is called the art of persuasion.

WHAT PERSUASION IS

Persuasion is the art of persuading somebody to do something without a fight. Persuasion is the ability to persuade somebody (in this case, your husband) to see reasons with you why he should consider your own idea and opinion and use it instead of his own. Persuasion has to do with giving sufficient and convincing reasons why what you are suggesting should be accepted. Persuasion has to do with you as a woman showing your husband or pointing out to him the advantages of your suggestion. Every man will go for what will benefit him. If he knows that he stands to gain so much from your idea, he will go for it without delay. Your job therefore is to show or point out to him with great care and calm tone all the benefits and gains in your suggestion. Persuasion is painting an honest and sincere picture of the gains to be made if your

idea is followed with the aim of convincing rather than fighting and insisting that your idea or opinion be accepted.

Persuasion is not done in the spirit of contention. It is not done with the mind to control and rule. A controlling spirit is a domineering spirit and it is not a good spirit for a wife in a marriage. Persuasion should not be practiced with arrogance but with humility and submission to the husband. You never give the impression you want to take charge or impose your opinion on your husband, rather, you want to help and move the family forward and save your husband from foreseen danger as a result of wrong steps he is about to take which he himself cannot see. Persuasion is never done with the attitude of “I must have my way”; it is for the progress of the family and peace in the home.

The art of persuasion is the best way to approach matters when couple’s have diverse opinions on an issue. Your greatest concern as a woman should be peace and harmony at all times in your marriage. No one marries to fight always. All marry for enjoyment and happiness. Happiness can only be experienced in an atmosphere of peace and harmony. Peace and harmony will be experienced when the art of persuasion is constantly practiced.

COUNSEL ON EFFECTIVE PERSUASION

1. Never attempt to make your presentation in anger.

Anger reflects in the voice and mannerisms during speech and that will stir anger in your husband and make your supposed good suggestion to be looked down upon and rejected. This definitely will cause you pain and aggravate the situation. Have your temper always under control. Never speak when anger is still in your heart. Be calm when making your presentation.

Prov 15:1

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

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Prov 29:11

11 A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

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Prov 14:1

The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.

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2. Sound as sweet and feminine as ever.

A woman should be a woman in speech and mannerism. A lovely woman sounds sweet and lovely and compels the hearer to listen. You must not show annoyance or rage when making your presentation. Never use a high tone when making your presentation. Be calm in speech. You must not sound sarcastic or insulting. Do not speak with too much authority in your voice. Do not command him or say you insist that he does what you want or say. Do not claim equal right in the marriage, for it is not an issue of “right” but of persuasion – you are supposed to be making an attempt to open his eyes to see what you have seen that he has not seen. Come to him as a woman who is in love and wants love from her husband. Use your feminine skills to get into

his heart and win his attention and make him see reason with you. Persuade him through reasoning, love, petting and calmness. Open his eyes to see in a feminine way. Be a wise woman in this matter.

3. Be sure the timing is right.

Eccl 3:1-8

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: 2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, 3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, 6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, 7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, 8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

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There is a time for everything. It is proper to speak when the time is right for such a discussion, otherwise, you will not be accepted and that will cause you great pain. It takes a wise woman to know the right time to discuss sensitive issues with the husband. Many have failed to get the answer they sought for because they spoke when the time was not ripe. I suppose you have made the same mistake too in the past.

- Look out for the time when he is not under stress.
- A good time will be a time when he is refreshed and happy.
- Wait till both of you are alone and you will not be distracted.
- Don't share with him when he is hungry and has not eaten or when he is eating.
- When he is complaining about something is not the best time no matter how much you want to share your ideas with him.

Prayerfully determine the best time to share your thoughts. Remember, if you want to be heard and accepted, you must speak at the appropriate time.

4. Take time to make sure all your points are clearly presented.

If your points are not clear it would not be understood, and when it is not understood, it will not be accepted. You have to make effort to keep it simple, clear, itemized for easy understanding. If you have to write your points down before presentation so you don't miss out anything, do it. You can even give him a copy. You have to patiently explain, if possible over and over again until you are sure he understands. Never lose your cool if you have to say it all over again because he said he did not understand what you said or mean. Patience and temperamental control is very important during this period. That is why you have to prayerful and mentally prepare yourself before opening your mouth.

5. Don't mount pressure on him to accept and follow immediately.

Once you have made your presentation, all you need is to give him time to decide as the head of the house what to do. Never mount pressure on him to take a decision immediately based on what you want. The rule of persuasion is that you allow your partner to think and decide, hopefully in your favour. The wife's role in marriage is a helping role based on the scriptures. The husband is to lead, so the power of decision is with him. Seeing that as the God appointed

leader he has to give account to God about everything that happens in his family, it will be wise that you allow him to think on what you have presented and come up with a decision that he will defend and not blame you later like Adam did before God in the garden of Eden for eating the forbidden fruit.

1 Cor 11:3

3 Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

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Gen 3:12

12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

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6. Back up your presentation with prayers to the Living God through Jesus Christ His Son.

Before you make your presentation, make sure you have prayed to God for help in the matter. Never depend on your ability to convince, but depend on God to help if you are sure that what you want is right in the sight of God. After you have made your presentation and he is yet to make a decision, you have to continue in prayer and thanksgiving on the issue without becoming restless about it. Be at peace as you trust God through prayer and he will definitely help you.

Ps 37:5-6

5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: 6 He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

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Ps 34:5

5 Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.

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7. When you succeed, don't celebrate victory openly for it may be misinterpreted.

Everybody likes to celebrate when a victory is won. But in this kind of victory, it is advisable that you do not celebrate openly. Let it be an internal celebration. Give thanks to God and be happy, but let it end there. Open celebration may give the impression that it was a contest and you won, or that you are now deciding what happens in the family, and this may make it difficult for your suggestions to be accepted next time.

8. Never compare your husband with another man, it will anger him and turn him off.

When making your presentation, never compare your husband with another man. No one likes that, even you. Never bring another person into the discussion. Just talk with him as a wife will with her husband and all will be well. Never say anything that you know can provoke your husband's anger for it will work against your intentions.

2 Cor 10:12

12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.

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9. Do not be angry if after everything, your suggestion is rejected or not followed completely as suggested.

In case your suggestion was rejected in the end or it was accepted but not in full, do not get angry and withdraw from your husband. Do not hate him for it. Do not disrespect him, refuse to cook for him, deny him sex, or keep malice with him. Submit to him as the scripture has asked all wives to do to their husbands. Never forget to keep loving him no matter what for that was the vow you took in marriage. Do not permit negative thoughts towards your husband into your mind for it will subtly destroy the love you have for him and tear your marriage down. If you fail today, next time try again when there is need to say what you believe and desire to see. Sometimes you will win and sometimes you will lose. Keep practicing the art of persuasion and live in peace and harmony with the love of your life. Keep your love fresh and maintain peace. God bless your marriage.

WORD OF WISDOM

- 1. It takes God to change people.**
- 2. Quarrelling does not change people or situations.**
- 3. Becoming more like Christ is the pathway to marital bliss.**
- 4. Your children are the blessings and responsibilities of your marriage.**
- 5. Your children's habits and character depends on your investment of love, time and money into their lives.**
- 6. Time and effort invested in making yourselves compatible is a good investment that will definitely pay off in the end.**
- 7. The liveliness of your family altar determines how far your marriage will receive God's support.**
- 8. Invest love and time in helping one another overcome your weaknesses.**
- 9. Give allowance for failure knowing that you too do fail sometimes, and you will always want your spouse to understand and bear with you.**
- 10. Say and do unto your spouse what you will have her say and do unto you.**