

Who Is Your Solid Rock?

A complimentary resource for *Blessing Your Husband* by Debra Evans

Most of us tend toward overeager impatience when it comes to growing up together within marriage. Too often we expect too much from our husband, and we expect it *right now*. We want our mate to be good, God-pleasing, productive, faith-filled, loving, Spirit-led, generous, authoritative, heroic, prayerful, responsible, patient, knowledgeable, gentle, self-controlled, sociable, manly, Christ-centered, successful, responsive, humble, Word-wise, humorous, faithful, sober-minded, fit, caring, attentive, well-groomed, kind, respectful, even-tempered, trustworthy, affectionate, sexually skillful, capable, honest, and sensitive to our needs. We want him to be a healthy, happy, and holy man of God. We restlessly yearn for him to be able to give us the love our heart longs for. (We may as well admit we want him to regularly give us top-quality back rubs, too!)

Bitterness, disillusionment, and heartbreak in marriage predictably follow when we look to our husband, rather than Jesus Christ, to supply the perfect, never-ending love our heart was created for. But when we turn our heart toward Christ, He transforms our longings.

There's just no getting around it: Expecting our mate to completely meet our needs for love and security is incompatible with true Christian love. Viewing our spouse as means to an end—namely, as the main person responsible for satisfying our innermost needs and compensating for our inadequacies—distorts the real meaning of love and threatens our marriage by placing an intolerable burden upon our partner.

“Remember, apart from Christ, we can do nothing (see John 15:5),” emphasize pastoral care experts Dr. Neil T. Anderson and Dr. Charles Mylander. “In addition, because we are in Christ we have the assurance He will meet all our needs (see Phil 4:19). Trying to resolve our marital conflicts without our essential needs being met in Christ will eventually prove counterproductive.”¹

Distinguishing the difference between dependence and love frees our heart, mind, and soul to steadily rely upon Christ as the source of our strength, hope, and identity. Constrained and guided by Jesus' unfailing love, we find the freedom to choose how to live out our sacred calling in obedience to God's purposes for our marriage and our life. In this way, we learn how to love and accept our husband for who he really is, allowing us to meet him only as the man he already is in Christ's eyes.

¹ Neil T. Anderson and Charles Mylander, *Christ-Centered Marriage* (Ventura, CA: Regal, 1996), 67.

Blessings Now: 25 Affirmations to Remember & Share with Your Husband

- I love you.
- I like the way you did that.
- I'm glad you're here with me.
- You made a wise decision.
- I want what's best for you.
- What you're doing is really interesting.
- I appreciate your help.
- Let me know what you need.
- I'm thankful we're together.
- I'm happy to see you!
- I enjoy being with you and learning new things.
- It's okay to tell me what you need.
- Nice job, (husband's name)!
- I like being with you.
- You figured out how to do that (name specific accomplishment) really well.
- Thank you for sharing your life with me.
- I think you're an amazing man.
- You're so dear to me!
- No one does that as well as you do.
- I like the way you look.
- I love making love with you.
- Your needs are okay with me.
- I'm thinking about you today.
- You are completely unique.
- I'm glad I married you.