



*for*

**BUSY WIVES**



*MARK AND SUSAN*

*MERRILL*

## LIST 7



### 10 Things Husbands Want to Hear from Their Wives

When I was in college I had a roommate that guys always wanted to date. In fact, she would often be dating two or three guys at one time. It was a curious thing to me. Why didn't she choose one? Why didn't they get mad that she didn't choose one? I remember asking her about it. And she answered very honestly that she liked all of them. There were traits about each of them that she admired. And that was why they all wanted to be with her! There was something very attractive about the way she admired, complimented, and looked up to them. She made men feel adored. She wasn't being insincere or playing a game. It was her natural tendency to see the best in people, guys and girls alike, and to point it out. It was a gift that made her a great date or, in my case, a great friend.

### *Lists to Love By for Busy Wives*

I'm not good at that. Making my husband feel like he is the best is something I need to work on. Seeing how he responds to it makes working on it worth it. It's like giving him his favorite meal to eat. There is nothing like specific and detailed praise and validation to energize a man and a marriage. After surveying many husbands, we found these are the ten most common things husbands want to hear from their wives.

#### **1. "I love being your wife."**

As simple as it sounds, husbands want to know that their wives are content in their marriage and truly enjoy just being with them. When is the last time you thanked your husband for marrying you? Don't just assume he knows. Tell him!

#### **2. "You're an outstanding father."**

Deep down every man has the desire to be seen as a hero—especially to his children. Specifically, tell your husband why he is your kids' hero. And tonight, at dinner, tell your children why he is so special.

#### **3. "I'm really attracted to you. You are the man!"**

It's a myth that women are always more looks conscious than men. As guys' hairlines begin to recede and stomachs

start protruding, they can become quite sensitive about their appearance. Never joke about how your husband looks. Tell him he's hot and how attracted you are to him.

**4. "I support the decision you made."**

When a man makes a decision, especially a tough one, he doesn't want his wife being critical of it or questioning him about it. He wants to know that his wife is behind him and admires his ability to make good decisions.

**5. "I know how important it is to live within our means. I'm with you on this."**

Your husband is concerned about the future of your family. So that means he is concerned about taking care of his family financially. Having a wife he can rely on to spend and save wisely is a tremendous comfort to him.

**6. "I'm so grateful for your spiritual leadership."**

All of us are hardwired for a relationship with God, and many men want to be seen as the spiritual leaders of their families. Encourage your husband in his faith and for taking his role as a spiritual leader seriously.

**7. “You are so wise.”**

Many men are born problem solvers and relish the process of thinking through something and arriving at a solution. This, incidentally, is why your husband is always trying to fix your problems when all you want him to do is listen. Recognizing your husband’s mental prowess and complimenting him on his intelligence will pay massive dividends to you. Emphasize to him that you trust his wise judgment.

**8. “I appreciate how hard you work to provide for our family.”**

There are many things in life that your husband cannot control, but one he can control is effort. It brings him great pleasure to work hard and see the results. To directly control and be the man responsible for creating something from nothing thrills him. Encourage his great work ethic.

**9. “Thank you very much for helping me with that.”**

When a man serves his wife, he wants her to recognize it. A simple thank-you is all he needs.

**10. “I’m impressed with how you handled that situation.”**

Sometimes a wife will point out when her husband does not handle something well. So when he handles a particularly difficult situation well, let him know.

## TAKING THE NEXT STEP

- Star the list items you usually say. Circle the items you don't say. Ask your husband which are the most important to him, and focus on those.

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- What are other things your husband wants to hear from you? Add to the list here.

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