



**First, married couples should enjoy a close companionship.**

**Second, married couples should experience meaningful, on-going conversation.**

**Third, married couples should possess a commitment that will build respect for one another.**

- For a friendship to continue to exist and deepen, there must be a mutual **respect** for one another. This is true for any friendship, but especially true of the marital relationship.
- Let's look at six areas of commitment that will help to build a mutual respect between husband and wife.
- There must be a commitment:
  1. To **sacrifice**. cf. Ephesians 5:25
    - *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."* **John 15:13**
  2. To be **close**. Proverbs 18:24
  3. To be **honest**. Proverbs 27:6
    - True friends tell you the truth even when it **hurts**.
    - Friends are **always** honest - even when it may not be easy, comfortable, or pleasant.

4. To **pray** together. Job 42:10

- *“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.” 1 Peter 3:7*

5. To never possess a **condemning** spirit.

- *“Also against his three friends was his wrath kindled, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job.” Job 32:3*
- A **man** simply thrives on a woman’s admiration. This is why Ephesians 5:33 commands wives to reverence or respect their husbands.

6. To always **love** each other unconditionally.  
Proverbs 17:17

- Love is not a **feeling**. It is a **choice** of the will.