1. Accept his authority.

When you resist his authority, it:

a. May cause him to abdicate his role as leader.

b. May encourage you to assume his responsibility. He may not be too concerned about your failure.

c. May result in bitterness.

2. Show confidence in his decisions.

a. Expressing anxiety over his decisions may cause him to become defensive and reactionary.

b. Questions asked in a spirit of eagerness to carry out his decisions may cause him to re-evaluate poor decisions.

c. If he fails to re-evaluate poor decisions and failure is imminent, you must remember God can teach him through failure.

d. He does not want to fail. He learns more through failure than you imagine.

e. You must not say, “I told you so.” Instead, focus on what God wants to teach you through the failure.

3. Be flexible about his priorities.

a. Your priorities are related to your view of life.

b. His priorities are related to a different view of life.

c. Both are important but you must realize that your husband is ultimately responsible for the direction of your family.

d. His reluctance to become concerned about your concerns may be a clue that you need to learn his priorities.

4. Don’t resent his past failures.

a. He knows when you have not really forgiven him for things he has done in the past.

b. Don’t try to use them as a way:

1) to convince him he should listen to you.

2) of justifying your wrong response to him.

5. Build loyalty to him in the children.

a. Your attitudes toward him are quickly picked up by the children.

b. Two things destroy their loyalty:

1) Complaints during the day of things he has not done.

2) Fear of things he will do.

6. Be grateful to him.

a. When you are pleasantly surprised and genuinely grateful for ‘extras,” this greatly increases his motivation to provide them.

b. When you expect “extras” from him, his motivation for providing them decreases.

7. Be consistent with his discipline of the children.

a. Don’t take sides against him.

b. Don’t defend the children.

This causes him to doubt your loyalty to him.

He may feel you are trying to turn the children against him.

c. Settle differences in discipline away from the children.

8. Don’t correct him in public.

a. Don’t use jokes about him or cutting remarks to him in front of other people in order to emphasize some change you would like to have in him.

b. If he makes a mistake or misquotes someone, tell him about it privately. Then, only if his statement will have harmful results for someone.