

The rights & obligations of husband and wife

BS Foad, MD 2016

1-The relationship between husband and wife is based on kindness, mercy, love and peace, and is a blessing from God, therefore we should cherish such relationship and work to improve it:

“And among His signs is that He created for you, from among yourselves spouses that you may find peace and tranquility with them, and He established your relationship on the basis of kindness, love and mercy; indeed in this are signs for those who reflect” Ar-Rum (The Romans) 30: 21

2-Both husband and wife play an integral role that allows their family to prosper, and each should be valued and appreciated for such effort. Men are leaders in their homes and as such respected and obeyed as long as they are not transgressing: **“Men are the guardians and maintainers of women because Allah favored some over others, and because of what they spend of their means”** An-Nesa’a (The Women) 4: 34. There is **no obedience for a human being if he/ she disobeys Allah.** The man as a guardian in his home is responsible and accountable. He is not better than his wife, **only our Taqwa (righteousness), and our character and behavior distinguish us: “Indeed the most honored amongst you in the sight of Allah is the person who is most righteous”** Al-Hujerat (The Apartments) 49: 13.

3-Providing for the family is not just shelter, food and clothes. It also entails **kindness, love, emotional security, respect, feeling safe** and decent environment where everyone can grow and learn

4-A man needs to listen to his wife, consult her and value her opinion before taking on important decisions. The Qur’an states: **“And their affair is decided through mutual consultation among themselves”** Ash-Shura’ (Consultation) 42: 38. Differences of opinion are settled according to the Qur’an & Sunnah: **“If you differ in any matter among yourselves refer it to Allah and His messenger”** An-Nesa’a (The Women) 4: 59.

5-Both father and mother should set an example for their children in noble character and proper behavior, and teach their children the principles of Islam: “O you who believe save yourselves and your families from a fire fueled by people and stones” At-Tahreem (forbidden) 66: 6

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: **(The best among you is the person who learns the Qur’an and teaches it to others)** Bokhari.

6-The wife and mother should provide a home that is peaceful and loving for her husband and children, and take care of their needs, and exhibit patience and love, and teach her children morals and ethics, and show love and respect for her husband. In return she should be respected, cared for, appreciated and loved

7-Differences of opinion should be settled in a just way that is respectful, and never resort to physical violence. We should admit our mistakes and correct them and be willing to

listen to reason and accept what is right. We should **never force our opinion**, but explain our reasoning and listen and learn from our spouses and our children. **Physical violence has no place in America** and is against the law. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) wondered how can a man beat his wife, then seeks intimacy with her?