



Key Notes

Ward and June Cleaver are dead! Fifty years ago, *Leave it to Beaver* portrayed the all-American family. How things have changed! The Cleavers don't live here anymore. If you doubt what I say, compare the way *your* family operates to the way things were in the days of Ward and June. The article below, "How to Be a Good Wife," is taken from a 1950s high school Home Economics textbook.

Have dinner ready. Plan ahead, even the night before, to have a delicious meal – on time. Most men are hungry when they come home, and the prospect of a good meal is part of the warm welcome needed.

Prepare yourself. Take fifteen minutes to rest so that you'll be refreshed when he arrives. Touch up your make-up, put a ribbon in your hair and be fresh-looking. He has just been with a lot of work-weary people. His boring day may need a lift.

Clear away the clutter. Gather up school books, toys, papers, etc. Then run a dust cloth over the tables. Your husband will feel he has reached a haven of rest and order and it will give you a lift too.

Prepare the children. Take a few minutes to wash the children's hands and faces, comb their hair, and, if necessary, change their clothes. They are little treasures, and he would like to see them playing the part.

Minimize all noise. At the time of his arrival, eliminate all noise of the washer, dryer, dishwasher or vacuum. Try to encourage the children to be quiet.

Make him comfortable. Have him lean back in a comfortable chair or suggest he lie down in the bedroom. Have a cool or warm drink ready for him. Arrange his pillow and offer to take off his shoes.

Make the evening his. Never complain if he does not take you out to dinner or to other places of entertainment. Instead, try to understand his world of strain and pressure, his need to be home and relax.

On Mother's Day 2007, I want to challenge all husbands to stop yearning for a return to the days of the Cleavers as if the 1950s were the Golden Age of marriage! Back then, dad was emotionally detached and mom was expected to smile, keep silent and bake cookies. The truth is that families then were nearly as dysfunctional as they are today.

Men, if you want a really good marriage, one that is in tune with the times, you will need a model that is older than the '50s. Be retro. Go all the way back to the first century! There you will find the true pattern for what it means to be a real husband. *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her! (Ephesians 5:25)*

Pastor Stan