

# WHO IS A GOOD HUSBAND?

Readers Respond With Many Definitions of What a Man Should Be to Qualify for the Post of a Woman's Lifemate

## Look Out for Kindness

A WOMAN, who had "put up" with a tough old stick of a husband for thirty years, said to a group of young people, who were discussing matrimony:

"Girls, I'd look out first for kindness!"

That woman knew what she was talking about. A man who is cruel at heart makes the very worst type of husband. The one you have in mind may not, in his youth, be flint-faced, stiff-lipped, and ugly to the eye; yet if he is not fond of flowers, dogs, and children, and if he is not tender with weak and small things for their own sakes, if he is unfeeling toward the horse he drives, or harsh to inferiors, the girl who is considering him had better consider yet a spell before she puts her life-long happiness into his hands.

The ideal husband has understanding of the thousand and one small things that make up a woman's life, and without which she cannot thrive. He knows how to speak the word of praise; he does not condemn her appearance or her cooking before a crowd; he has patience with the trying ways of children, and does not make a habit of fingering out the harsh word which a man soon forgets, but which makes the sensitive nerves of a woman quiver all day long.

The next quality a woman approves of in her husband is his ability to appear to advantage among her friends, and to cause her to appear well as his wife. She cannot readily excuse a blunderer, who brings down on his head the ridicule of other women.

These seem trivial matters, yet there is no doubt but that they lie at the root of much domestic unhappiness. I do not think that women care particularly what their husband's business is, so long as it is honest and approved by their fellow-men. They do not turn against them because they make business mistakes, and they rather like a man to lean on their judgment, and allow them to do a good share of the buying and planning for the needs of the home. Women are not nearly so fond of the out-and-out successful man as he himself supposes. In romances, where he attains success without ossification of the heart, it works out all right. But in real life, the price demanded of the wife of an unusually clever or successful man is too appalling for her to pay cheerfully.—Miss F. T., Mount Hamilton, Ont.

## Her Soldier Husband

DURING the short eight years of our marriage, my husband has always been as devoted and tender as on our wedding day. Though he was a busy man, he never forgot to give me an encouraging word before going to work, and a pleasant greeting on his return, and always attending to my comfort before his own or the children's. He was a good entertainer, and this lifted much strain and worry from me, as we had a good deal of company. Many a time have I been nearly distracted preparing a dinner—cooking was one of my failings in my early years of marriage—when an encouraging word or smile gave me fresh strength. No matter how tired he was, he always remained in the living-room for a pleasant little chat after the children were asleep.

My husband was among the first to don the khaki. How he hated to leave us! But he said, "It is my duty." He has been gone over a year, and during that time he has written me many beautiful love letters. Fortune has been kinder to me than to some wives, as I expect to see my soldier husband before very long, though in a much impaired state of health.—Mrs. H. H., Turtle Lake, Ont.

## Loyalty is Absolutely Necessary

A GOOD HUSBAND does not try to boss his wife; he acknowledges that marriage is a partnership in which each should have equal responsibilities and equal rights. He knows that a wife is just as appreciative of a square deal as a man partner would be. He does not need to have an absolutely angelic temper; an occasional explosion of righteous wrath clears the domestic atmosphere, just as a thunderstorm purifies the air; but he should always be ready to kiss and be friends again and quite willing to take his share of the blame when things go wrong.

Above everything, he must be loyal. Marital happiness cannot endure where there is no loyalty. Loyalty prevents a man from humiliating his wife in public—finding fault with or reprimanding her in the presence of others. Any woman would rather be beaten in private than humiliated in public, for pride is the next strongest passion to love. A good husband can make this passion serve a wise purpose, by skillfully conveying the impression that he believes his wife to be quite superior to common weaknesses; for most of us try to live up to the good opinion of those whom we love.

The man who seeks to gain the sympathy of other women by the plea that he is not suitably mated, or that he has not married his affinity, deserves only the contempt of all decent people; for it is the man's privilege to choose, and if he chooses unwisely, he has only himself to blame, and he should be brave enough to face the consequences without whining.

A keen sense of humour is an excellent trait in a husband; it helps to smooth out the rough places, and prevents both from making mountains out of the molehills of domestic worries.

To sum up: A good husband should be a

brave comrade, a wise counsellor, and a loyal friend.—Mrs. L. S., Juddhaven, Ont.

## He Must Be True

A GOOD Husband is he who has gone through the fire of matrimonial adjustment and remained true. He is not made in a day. At first he is in the rough, perhaps, but as the waves beating against the rock wear it to a smooth surface, so do the daily trials and close companionship of a patient, loving, and spiritual-minded wife bring out the real quality of the man. Love worketh wonders in us all.—Mrs. M. M. A., Vancouver, B.C.

## Loyalty

A GOOD Husband does not allow any one to speak ill of his wife, but strives to show in a quiet, authoritative manner that to speak ill of his wife is to speak ill of himself; and by his loving thoughtfulness he makes it easy for her to remember the time of courtship and the early days of wedded life.—Mrs. K. E. N., Dunnville, Ont.

## Eve Spoiled Her Husband

EVE seems to have been the only woman who ever found a strictly "ready-made" husband, and unfortunately she spoiled him and all his sons, poor fellows! He did not know much about women, and she did not know how easy it is to spoil a man.

Good husbands should not be incapable or unwilling to do things, help with the work, and make repairs. A pretty state of affairs if he must send out for somebody to fix every little thing that gets out of order. In many so-called homes this must be done or the thing left undone, unless the wife is a much better and handier man than he.

A good husband should not be indifferent to moral principles and the religious life. The indifferent man lets his wife go to church alone, if she goes at all, and expects her to do her own share, and his also, of right living. He is a disgrace to any good woman and unworthy of her.

does not consist merely in providing them with the necessities of life. Why should a little woman hold a big, fat baby in her arms until they ache, while a great, strong man—who once delighted to hold her—sits round doing nothing, or with a paper in his hand. This often happens, and the man takes no notice of it; yet before they were married he would hardly let the strong girl, then she then was, lift a ball of yarn off the floor or place a chair at the table for herself.

The good husband is not continually telling his wife about what his neighbours' wives can do and what good biscuits his mother used to make. He spends most of his spare time in his wife's company instead of in some pool hall or on the street corner. She will appreciate it if he does not forget to bring home an unexpected present now and again. He does not try to be boss, either, but he must have spunk enough not to be bossed or henpecked.—Mrs. E. F., Ogema, Sask.

## As Equal Partners

WELL, I'm married, and I'm very happy, after quite an experience, after a good many ups and downs, after many cares and many joys, and here he is, my Good Husband; a man absolutely

loyal to the one love of his youth, though she made him wait a good many years.

Physically good to look upon, manly, well-groomed always, active and employed in something worth while, mentally keen, interested in affairs of the times, and usually proving his judgments on them correct; not given to any desire for publicity himself, but keeping tab on men who are in the public eye; a great lover of books, morally "sound as a nut," honest to even his own personal disadvantage, truthful, loyal to friend, and just to foe; not a professor of religion, but a genuine possessor of its principles; generous to all good causes so far as his means allow. As husband and father, he has never failed in any crisis.

## What the Lonely Life Does

GOOD Husbands are made or marred by their mothers and sisters. If a man is waited on and spoiled in his mother's home, he will expect his wife to follow up the same course of treatment, but to a greater degree.

Again, "baching," particularly in Western Canada, is the ruin of large numbers of young men, from the "good husband" point of view. The very independence of the life, compared with a life of interdependence, is a snare. Many a bachelor degenerates into a mere physical force, a bundle of fixed habits, some savouring of good, but more of evil. The higher things of life are forgotten or wilfully set aside. The man who has had much experience at "baching" seldom makes a "good husband."

The Good Husband does not think that he has outgrown religion, but goes to church with his family. He makes ample provision for the future of himself and family, mentally, morally, spiritually, physically, and economically. He strives to own a place of his own, with his wife as joint partner, with equal rights. He holds up only the highest ideals to his children and does not teach them that money is the only thing in life worth striving after. He is kind and considerate of the rights and welfare of others, takes a right interest in politics and all the great questions of the day, is an open-minded, public-spirited, ahead-of-the-times man, who can see and do beyond his own four walls, but in the various walks of life exemplifies the teaching that for The Good Husband, charity begins at home.—Miss M. MatT., Winnipeg, Man.

concerns our financial resources. I know what I can spend, or give, or save, and what we owe. I finance the household expenses—food, clothing, medical, church, home insurances (children), repairs, and furnishings. He looks after rent, large insurance, fuel, light, and water. I never have to say, "May I have a dollar," and we find no difficulty in keeping perfect harmony.

If I'm ill or weary, he considers it is his right to put the babies to bed, wash dishes, sweep or dust, while I rest, just as I know that when I'm well that's my end of the job. In short, we're partners. And a man whose idea of a wife is a real partner is "dead sure" to be "A Good Husband." He is really affectionate to both wife and kiddies, but he doesn't make much fuss about it. He doesn't call me pet names nor tell me I'm beautiful, when I'm merely "fair, fat, and forty," but there's always the little goodbye for us all, and a tender greeting when he comes home. So, you see, he just suits me, and is my ideal "Good Husband."—Mrs. A. E. C., Winnipeg, Man.

## Must Be Self-Respecting

THE good husband must be a God-fearing, self-respecting man, for if he has no self-respect, how can he respect others? He must have honour for all his fellows, especially woman. Mine says, "I respect all women, for my mother was a woman." Such chivalry must indeed win, and ever keep true and abiding love and harmony in a home on this western prairie; a humble home it is, but love reigns therein.—Mrs. D. J. MacF., Edgerton, Alta.

## Don't Sulk

THE good husband is unselfish, is a companion to his wife, and takes an interest in what she thinks and does. Whilst he may not always agree with her, he respects her opinions. He sees that she has opportunities to go out among her friends, attend church, lectures, concerts, etc., occasionally, even though it should necessitate his staying home with the children.

Above all, he does not sulk—deliver us from these sulking men, of whom there are many! Better have a good, hot temper and fire up and be done with it than make himself and every one around miserable until he sees fit to "get over it."—Mrs. G. L. P., Laseby, Sask.

## An Example to His Children

A GOOD Husband is a living example to his children and to all young men. His wife's judgment of him is oft expressed to the children in the following terms:

"You must strive to grow up like Father," or "Try, dear, to do as Father does," and "I'll ask Father what he thinks best." To her friends it is, "My husband gave me that," or "Isn't this a pleasure? My husband planned it for us."

These are her sincere everyday expressions of love and faith, and every good woman prizes the love of such a man too highly not to endeavour to hold it, and would not exchange her treasure and her Home—I write it with a capital—for the throne and crown of England.—Mrs. J. T. B., Mar, Ont.

## Books, Magazines, Music—All Help

THE Good Husband is a good provider. He supplies his home and family with the necessities, and as much as he can afford, with the better and higher things of life—the best books, magazines, music, paintings, and other creations of genius and of art. These contribute to culture, refinement, strength, and uplifting of character, and cannot be overlooked by the man who would aspire to the best. The good husband is more than a burden-bearer. His task is not merely to help carry, but rather to lighten, the load, by labour-saving methods, good cheer, comfortable provision, and refining influence in the home.—Mrs. W. J. W., Merlin, Ont.

## Patient and Sympathetic

THE Good Husband holds his wife up to her very best—that itself is an inspiration to do one's best. He enters feelingly into her cares and worries, trivial though they may seem to him; to a woman there is nothing so comforting as to be able to tell her cares to sympathizing ears. At the same time, he points out her mistakes in a loving way, showing her how to overcome difficulties. He gives a word of praise and encouragement when it is due, and that means much to her.

He gives her a fair proportion of what he earns, and has a thorough understanding as to just how they stand financially. He remembers that she is really an equal partner; while he is out in the world earning the money, she is at home working and planning to make their home the sweetest place on earth for him, and trying to train up their children aright.

He remembers that he, too, is responsible for the children, and by example rather than precept instils into their minds ideals that will send them out into the world, noble men and women, honouring God, and filling a useful place of service to their fellow-men.—Miss P. M., Vancouver, B.C.

## The Finished Product

MEN are born; husbands are made. A good husband is the finished product of a good woman's hand.—Mrs. M. L., Blythe, Ont.

## WHO IS A GOOD HUSBAND?

- Are you, Mr. Bashful, that you are ashamed to be seen wheeling your own baby?
- Are you, Mr. Neglectful, that you go away for a week without writing a line?
- Are you, Mr. Dilatory, that you never come home to meals on time?
- Are you, Mr. Nighthawk, that you stay out late at night—night after night?
- Are you, Mr. Lazyman, that you never lift a hand to improve the home?
- Are you, Mr. Carefree, that you ignore the moral education of your children?
- Are you, Mr. Scrap O'Paper, that you forget your marriage vows?
- Are you, Mr. Grunts, that you never offer your wife a word of praise or courage?
- Are you, Mr. Myopia, that your life is not insured?
- Are you, Mr. Savage, that you think your wife is your slave?
- Are you, Mr. Haughty, that you humiliate your wife in public?
- Are you, Mr. Lust, that you force your wife against her will?
- Are you, Mr. Worldly, that you never go to church?
- Are you, Mr. Titewad, that you never give your wife diversion?
- Are you, Mr. Rut, that you don't try to improve your position in life?

He cannot be a successful home-builder as he rejects the most important material for this purpose. He is unjust to his family, both as concerns this life and the life to come.

—Mrs. J. W., Bradford, Ont.

## Once He Held Her—But Now?

THE Good Husband is kind to his wife at all times, and if he must find any fault with what she does, he does not speak about it before company, but waits until they are alone and then speaks kindly and reasonably. Not even their own children should witness these little talks, for they would tend to give the child distorted views of home life.

If they are blessed with children, he is ready always to do his share in caring for them. That

just here I rise to remark that I've heard of people who in all the varied frictions of homemaking, child-training, and domestic-financing, "never had a difference of opinion." I never saw them, and as yet, at forty years, require proof that they exist. It isn't natural; husband and wife must ever be separate individuals and through love must learn to "bear and forbear." But my good husband has never forgotten that his wife's love and all that marriage means is not a right, but a gift to him, as his love is to me. He does not turn all decisions regarding discipline over to me, nor does he interfere and balk my decisions.

In the matter of finances, there has never been any question of "allowance" between us. I know exactly what he earns, exactly what we spend, all the details of any business so far as it