

Resolutions for the Husband

by Bryan Gibson

1. I will make the same resolution that Joshua did: “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).
2. I will prepare my heart to seek, obey, and teach the law of the Lord, just like Ezra did (Ezra 7:9-10).
3. I will **not** discuss whether or not we’re going to worship services, whether it’s Sunday morning, or any other service. If our brethren are gathered together to worship the Lord, I plan for us to be there, and it will take more than a minor illness, more than a few aches and pains to keep us away (Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 11:26; 20:7).
4. I will work together with you in the kingdom of the Lord, just like Aquila did with Priscilla (Acts 18:26; Rom. 16:3-4; 1 Cor. 16:19).
5. I will join with you in showing hospitality to our brethren (1 Peter 4:9).
6. I will **not** do like Lot did and take us somewhere to live that will clearly be detrimental to our family (Genesis 13:11-13).
7. I will gladly “spend and be spent” for your soul (2 Corinthians 12:15).
8. I will love you “fervently with a pure heart” (1 Peter 1:22).
9. So that you “know the love which I have so abundantly for you” (2 Corinthians 2:4), I will love you, not just “in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18). In other words, I will “prove” my love to you (2 Corinthians 8:24).
10. And one of the ways I will prove my love is by listening to you. “Swift to hear and slow to speak” (James 1:19)—that will be my motto, toward God’s word, toward you, and toward all others (Proverbs 17:27-28; 18:13; 29:20).
11. I will love you—even through the most difficult times. Christ doesn’t abandon His bride during these times (Romans 8:35-39), and I won’t abandon you. If we face financial difficulties, I will still love you, even if you’re the cause of them. If you become overweight, I will still love you. If you become very ill and I have to spend all my time taking you to the doctor, I will still love you. If you become an invalid and can no longer do anything for me, I will still love you. God joined us together and I won’t let anyone or anything tear us apart.
12. I will love you, even if you don’t return it (Matthew 5:46; Luke 14:12-14). If you should ever say, “I don’t love you anymore,” I will keep right on loving you, and I will seek to win back your affections.
13. I will **not** give in to bitterness, no matter what you may say or do (Colossians 3:19).

14. I will **not** ever seek revenge against you. If you speak ill to me, I will speak kindly to you. If you throw something at me, I will pick it up and put it back where it belongs (Romans 12:17-21).
15. I will be kindly affectionate to you (Romans 12:10).
16. I will sacrifice my time, my body, all my material possessions—for the Lord I serve, and for you. I will gladly become poor so that you can be rich (2 Corinthians 8:9; 1 John 3:16-18). If we can't afford two new sets of tires, I will drive around with the bald ones. Should the situation call for it, I will even give my life for you.
17. I will praise, compliment, and encourage you (Proverbs 31:28-31), just as the Lord does His bride (e.g., 1 Cor. 11:2; Phil. 2:19-20, 25, 29-30).
18. I will do for you the very things I want you to do for me (Matthew 7:12).
19. I will appreciate the work you do in the home, especially the work you do in raising our children, because that's the most important work in the world (1 Timothy 2:11-15; 5:14; Titus 2:3-5).
20. I will **not** put more on you than you bear (Matt. 11:28-30; Gal. 6:2). I will **not** put more work on you than you can handle; I will **not** micromanage you; and I will **not** make it impossible to please me.
21. I will get rid of bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking and malice, and replace them with kindness, tenderheartedness, forgiveness, patience, and courtesy (Ephesians 4:31-32; 1 Peter 3:8).
22. I will make sure that what happens to you is a big deal to me. I will rejoice when you rejoice, and weep when you weep (Romans 12:15).
23. I will nourish and cherish you—for the benefits it brings you, but also for the benefits it brings me—because we are ONE flesh (Ephesians 5:28-31). What makes YOU better makes ME better.
24. Using Christ's rule over His house as a pattern, I will **not** rule selfishly. I will look out for your interests as well as my own (Philippians 2:3-4); in fact, I will give preference to your interests (Romans 12:10). I will go places you want to go, do things you like to do, and if we can afford it, buy you the things that you enjoy. I will **not** pay more attention to the television, or to the internet, than I do to you.
25. I will rule unselfishly, but I will **not** be weak or indecisive (Isaiah 40:10-11). I will seek your input, but there may be times when I have to go against you. I will make those tough decisions, and expect you to abide by them.
26. I will be a good provider. I will **not** "overwork to be rich" (Proverbs 23:4), but I will work hard and be dependable in my work. I will do my best to keep us from being dependent on others (1 Timothy 5:8; Ephesians 6:5-8; 1 Thessalonians 4:10-12). I will not, however, take a job that will keep me (us) from seeking first the kingdom (Matthew 6:33).

27. I will make a covenant with my eyes, which means I will **not** look upon another woman, much less flirt with another woman (Job 31:1).
28. I will **not** let the sun go down on my wrath; I will try to work out whatever issue has come between us before it festers and leads to greater problems (Ephesians 4:26-27).
29. I left my parents to cleave to you, so I will **not** let them run our marriage (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5). I will **not** run to my parents every time there's a problem, and I won't let you run to yours.
30. I will **not** lie to you or deceive you in any way (Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9).
31. I will say, "I'm sorry," when I do you wrong, and I will repent (Matthew 5:23-24).
32. I will forgive you when you say, "I'm sorry," and I won't keep up with how many times I do it (Matthew 18:21-35).
33. I will **not** let you walk out of the house wearing something that might cause others to question your purity, something that makes it look like you profess something other than godliness (1 Tim. 2:9-10).
34. I will try **not** to be overly possessive, but I will challenge you if I believe you are flirting with another man, or have just become too close to another man (1 Corinthians 6:18; Romans 13:14).
35. I will seek to satisfy your physical desires, so that you are never tempted to look elsewhere (1 Corinthians 7:3-5; Proverbs 5:15-20).
36. I will **not** ask you to do anything that violates your conscience (Romans 14:13; 1 Corinthians 8:13).
37. I will learn to be content (Philippians 4:11-12; 1 Timothy 6:6-8). Instead of complaining about what we don't have, I will be thankful for what we do have (Ecclesiastes 6:9). And I (we) will be most thankful for the riches we have in Christ (Ephesians 1:7; 2:7).
38. I will not let the children come between us, because if we can keep our relationship strong, it will benefit both us and them. To bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4), we need to grow together in Christ and present a united front (2 Peter 1:5-11; 3:17-18)
39. I will pray for God's help, to do all these things I have resolved to do (James 5:16).