

# Rejoice With the Wife of Your Youth

## INTRODUCTION:

1. Read Proverbs 5:18.
  - a. Other translations use the phrase, “rejoice IN the wife of your youth.”
  - b. But WITH works perfectly fine, because if you read vv. 15-20 together, the main point is this: Husbands, don’t get your pleasure, your joy, your satisfaction with any other woman. Make sure it’s **with** your wife.
2. So let’s focus on the commandment, “rejoice with the wife of your youth,” and at least initially talk about what it does NOT mean.
  - a. It does NOT mean rejoice that you have a wife, although there’s certainly some merit to that.
  - b. It does NOT mean find things that bring YOU joy. In some marriages, a husband may get involved in hobbies, activities that bring him joy, but it’s independent of his wife. And of course, his wife may do the same.
  - c. Not altogether wrong, but it’s important for them to find joy in each other and with each other. And husbands need to take the lead in this. God appointed us to be the head of the house, so we need to act like it.
3. Let’s look, then, at some of the different ways a husband can rejoice **with** the wife of his youth (the woman he married when he was young).

## BODY:

- A. Rejoice **with** your wife in God’s gift of physical intimacy.
  1. That aspect of marriage is heavily emphasized here in Proverbs 5 (read vv. 15-20).
  2. Enjoy it so much that the anticipation is like this: Song of Solomon 5:2-5.
    - a. That’s the wife’s excitement, but if you want to see the husband’s, read 4:9-15.
  3. As wonderful as this gift is, and as much pleasure as it brings, we have a shallow marriage if that’s ALL we enjoy together.
- B. Rejoice **with** your wife in raising children together.
  1. Burden or blessing, which are they?
    - a. Psalms 127:3-5.
    - b. And they’ll be seen more this way if we stay on top of the discipline (go through those passages in Proverbs again).
  2. Seems like they do something new every day, especially early in their development (find pleasure in all those “firsts”).
    - a. Reliving those days with our grandchildren now.

3. 1 Timothy 6:17.
    - a. We don't want our children to grow up and say, "I think we forgot that last part."
  4. Of course, the greatest joy will come from seeing them walk in the truth (3 John 1:4).
- C. Rejoice **with** your wife by laughing together.
1. "A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones" (Proverbs 17:22).
  2. Think about 1 Kings 18, when the prophets of Baal were trying to get him to light that fire. I'm sure they didn't think it was funny, but if you had been among the children of Israel, think you would have laughed when Elijah taunted the prophets of Baal, "Talk louder, maybe he's meditating, or is busy, or on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and needs to be awakened" (1 Kings 18:27).
  3. "A time to weep and a time to laugh" (Ecclesiastes 3:4, explain context).
    - a. Just don't use each other as a "punching bag"—don't laugh at the expense of each other.
- D. Rejoice **with** your wife by doing the work of the Lord **together**.
1. Think Aquila and Priscilla rejoiced together when...
    - a. They hosted Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:2-3).
    - b. They together explained to Apollos the word of God more accurately (Acts 18:24-26).
    - c. When they hosted the church that met in their house (1 Corinthians 16:19).
    - d. They risked their necks for Paul's life (Romans 16:3-4).
  2. Paul describes them as his "fellow workers in Christ Jesus" (Romans 16:3). They found joy together in working for the Lord.

## CONCLUSION:

1. Deuteronomy 24:5, ESV: "When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be liable for any other public duty. He shall be free at home one year **to be happy with his wife whom he has taken.**"
  - a. Yes, an O.T. commandment, but you can see how concerned God was for husband and wife to find happiness together.
2. We might think if I could be free of some other responsibilities, I could do so much better. But that just means we have to work that much harder.
3. The admonition in Ecclesiastes 9:9 is to live joyfully with your wife all the days of your life (not just that first year).