

Wife Tips

Single

Sister

E-Guide



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*Preparing To Be
A Good Wife*

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1.

On Becoming A Mrs.

Have you ever noticed the subtle difference between the titles ‘Ms.’ and ‘Mrs.’? The first word leaves a woman’s marital status ambiguous, while the latter proudly announces that you’ve tied the knot. Despite the fact that this slight alteration may appear trivial in writing, that little letter ‘r’ can change a Muslim woman’s entire world.

Yet, no one really talks about that ‘change’ to single women anymore. Nowadays, you hardly hear people advising single women how to be good wives. As such, due to their lack of awareness and inexperience about married life, some of these ladies choose the wrong man to be their lifelong partner, or they enter their marriages without knowing how to make their partnership work.

When single women are uneducated about what a wife’s role really involves, after they marry they may become overwhelmed with the tasks related to managing a household and doing what it takes to properly care for their husband. They may also be unprepared to handle conflict when problems suddenly arise in their marriages and resort to bad moves. Thus, remaining ignorant about marriage while being single is certainly risky for your future relationship.

It is related that the Prophet ﷺ said: “When a person gets married he has completed half of his religion, so **let him fear Allah** with regard to the other half.” (al-Bayhaqi)

In this narration, the Prophet ﷺ is teaching the believers that a person's religion cannot be complete without both halves. By saying that marriage involves half of a person's *deen*, he ﷺ is encouraging all believers in the most emphatic way to get married, while also warning them in the strongest terms to not become lax in their practice of the religion thereafter.

Definitely, how you treat your future husband is included in the second half of this Prophetic warning. Consequently, it is upon any woman who desires to be a righteous wife to learn what being a Muslim wife actually entails with the intention of living up to her praiseworthy standards.

While many single women spend a significant amount of time searching for Mr. Right, they rarely question themselves if they are prepared to be Mrs. Right. The question is: do you want to be different?

The more ready you are for married life, the better equipped you are at comfortably slipping into your role as a wife and triumphantly producing a blissful Islamic marriage inshaAllah. Through reading the advice in this guide and doing the practical exercises, you will gain a better understanding about wife life, men, and selecting a spouse. InshaAllah, it will be a means for you to choose your future husband wisely and pave the way to a successful lifelong bond with him inshaAllah.

Yet, maybe you're thinking you'll wait to get married because single life isn't so bad after all...

2.

The Staying Single Dilemma

To stay single, or to not stay single: that is the question!

Staying single certainly has its perks. You have a lot of individual freedom to organize your daily schedule as you see fit. You are not troubled with the worry of taking care of a spouse's needs. You can have girl parties and potlucks whenever you want and without the hassle of serving the men's side. You do not have to figure out how to still spend time with your parents and family.

With all these benefits, why in the world would anyone want to get married? It seems like marriage creates the opposite effect: no personal time, more problems, increased responsibilities, and a change in lifestyle. Isn't staying single better for you? As a matter of fact, because married life is so time-consuming, isn't it safer to do everything that you want to achieve in life FIRST, and then get married after you're through with fulfilling your personal goals?

Honestly, no. Unfortunately, these are all false perceptions that society gives single women, which coax unmarried women into staying single. Not even that, hearing 'bad marriage' stories can also scare single women away from the thought of even wanting to marry in the future. Yet, remaining single for too long has its repercussions; some of which may critically impact your chances of forming a prosperous married life.

For one, living with another human being requires that you are adaptable and considerate of their circumstances, and being a wife will

necessitate this to a larger degree. When you're younger, like in your twenties, you are more flexible with changing your personal habits and standards. As you age, you often become set in your ways, and this attitude can lead to unnecessary marital conflict.

Secondly, all that time spent on setting out to 'conquer the world' may not provide you with the training that you need to form a lifelong bond with a man. Many women realize after marriage that much of what they strove for before married life did not really help them succeed as a wife and a mother; doing that requires a different set of life skills.

Thirdly, purposely staying single can decrease your likelihood of getting married as time passes, which you may regret later on. It could be that you're receiving proposals now, but you may soon reach a point when potential suitors stop knocking at your door. It is very heartbreaking to have to admit to yourself that it may have been wiser to marry that decent Muslim guy who crossed your path instead of delaying the process.

Lastly, probably the best reason to get married is because it is the *sunna*.

Marry To Follow The *Sunna*

The Prophet ﷺ said, "Marriage is a **part of my *sunna***, and whoever does not follow my *sunna* is not from me..." (Ibn Majah)

In another relation, it is related that a group of three men came to the houses of the wives of the Prophet ﷺ asking how the Prophet ﷺ worshiped Allah, and when they were informed about that,

they considered their worship insufficient and said, “Where are we compared to the Prophet as his past and future sins have been forgiven?” Then one of them said, “I will offer the prayer throughout the night forever.” The other said, “I will fast throughout the year and will not break my fast.” The third said, “I will keep away from women and will not marry forever.” Allah’s Apostle came to them and said, “Are you the same people who said so-and-so? By Allah, **I am more afraid of Allah and more aware of Him than you**; yet I fast and break my fast, I sleep and I also marry women. So he who does not follow my tradition in religion is not from me.” (Bukhari)

The Prophet ﷺ was more fearful of Allah Most High and more obedient to Him than anyone else in existence. If staying single was better, he would be the first to do it. Yet, he ﷺ not only encouraged marriage, but he instructed and urged people to get married.

The Rightly-Guided Caliphs – Abu Bakr, ‘Umar, ‘Uthman and ‘Ali (may Allah be pleased with them) – married. The commanders of armies, such as ‘Amr ibn al-‘Aas, Abu ‘Ubaydah ibn al-Jarraah, Khalid ibn al-Waleed, Shurahbel ibn Hasanah and others (may Allah be pleased with them all) married. The same is true of most of the Companions who narrated Prophetic hadith, such as Abu Huraira, Abu Sa‘ed, Anas ibn Malik, ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Umar, ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Abbas, ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Amr and others (may Allah be pleased with them all); they all married.

Marriage is a form of worship to Allah Most High and it is a means to becoming more devout to your Creator. Thus, a woman who denies herself of marriage is denying herself of following the noble *sunna*. By not choosing to marry or delaying to marry, she pushes herself away from the Prophetic guidance and a chance to grow in her *deen*.

It must be mentioned that if a single woman wants to get married and Allah Most High does not grant her that opportunity as of yet, then this

is not her fault and she will be rewarded for her tremendous patience with Allah's decree inshaAllah.

However, if she is purposely choosing to not marry, then she must question her intentions. Is it because there is honestly no one there to marry her or is it because she has too many standards, expectations, and unrealistic requests that she's barring herself from the *sunna* of being married?

But why deny yourself of the opportunity to develop a relationship with the *sunna* and the ability to live up to the Prophetic way? You can tell yourself that your reasons are good, but are they any better than the *sunna*? Alhamdulillah, there's only goodness and blessing in following the Prophet's noble *sunna* ﷺ.

Marry To Stay Chaste & Contented

The Prophet ﷺ said, "O young people! Whoever among you can marry, should marry, **because it helps him lower his gaze and guard his modesty** (i.e. his private parts from committing illegal sexual intercourse), and whoever is not able to marry, should fast, as fasting diminishes his sexual power." (Bukhari)

If you look at the level of individual exposure to the types of temptations running loose in the modern world, it is obvious that Muslims are living in a time when out of all moments in history marriage is needed as a protection. When people decide to not marry, corruption inevitably spreads, and the risk of falling into illicit sexual intercourse is higher. Indeed, the Prophet ﷺ said that one of the signs of the Last Day is that illicit sexual intercourse will become widespread.

Every human being has that natural, physical need. It may be that a woman waits to marry because she thinks that she can hold out, but as soon as normal bodily functions kick in, she realizes that she also has a desire for that type of emotional connection and physical chemistry with a man. Unfortunately, some sisters who delayed marrying start engaging in unlawful interactions with men in their desperation to marry, or they stay chaste but are constantly struggling with being content with their situation.

Marry To Have Children

The Prophet ﷺ said, “Marry the woman who is loving and fertile, for verily I shall outnumber the other nations by you.” (Abu Dawud)

It is praiseworthy to have as many children as possible for Allah Most High’s sake. The Prophet ﷺ himself had seven children (Allah be pleased with them). It is one of the ultimate delights about marriage: having a chance to start your own righteous family. By raising Godly children, you possess the power to make a difference in the world through your children, and you will share in the reward of all their good actions and the generations that come forth from them. Furthermore, your children and grandchildren will make *du’a* for you, even after you die inshaAllah.

By staying single, you won’t be able to have your own children. Furthermore, by delaying marriage until your thirties, you decrease your chances of getting pregnant because a woman’s egg quality declines with age. Also, you’re less likely to have many children, build a huge family, and give your children siblings. And as every mother will tell you, it’s better to have children when you are in your twenties because raising them requires enormous amounts of physical energy and time.

After you've heard a few reasons for why you should get married, now it's important to stop and analyze the soundness of your reasons for staying single.

Action Steps

1. Take ten minutes to write down all the reasons why you think staying single may be better for you. When you are done, leave the paper alone and take a twenty minute break.

2. After your break, return to your list and for each reason ask:

- ❖ Is my thinking Islamic and according to the *sunna*?
- ❖ Will I regret delaying marriage if it means that I may never marry?
- ❖ Will marriage really impact my ability to complete these goals in life?

3. Once you're finished, now ask yourself: "So, what scares me about getting married?" Write down your answer on a sheet of paper before proceeding to the next section.

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3.

Does Happily Ever After Really Exist?

It's pretty worrying to think about getting married these days. With all the divorces occurring in the world, it's enough to make you wonder if happily ever after even exists anymore. Nonetheless, routinely entertaining this doubt will definitely influence your internal desire to marry, especially when it is coupled with a negative real life experience.

For example, maybe you witnessed a close friend divorcing her husband, and seeing her emotional rollercoaster discouraged you from wanting to marry. Or maybe you watched movies that portrayed male characters in a bad light, and these stories put a damper on your motivation to marry. Or maybe you suffered from the detriments of a bad marriage in your own childhood home, and those wounds still hurt up to this day; consequently you secretly vowed to never marry.

Now, whenever you ponder over the idea of getting married, your mind floods with negative thoughts, your anger increases, and you get turned off from the idea. It's a recurring process that swirls around in your head, dragging you through a parade of pessimism every time you hear the word 'marriage'.

Yet, there's more to the story, and maybe more than you would like to admit. Underneath your anger is probably a very vulnerable feeling: fear. It could be the fear of failing at married life. It could be the fear of reliving past hurts. It could be the fear of falling out of love. It could be the fear of abuse. It could be the fear of being stuck in a lifelong disappointing relationship with your future spouse.

This fear pushes you to stay unmarried because you reason that it's safer to stay single. It's familiar to you, and it hasn't caused you the harm that you've seen marriages cause to others around you. It seems so logical, like the right thing to do.

But what if it's not? What if staying single is more hurtful for you? What if your fear is baseless? What if you could successfully create a happy household and a blissful marriage by learning the right relationship skills? What if your fear is really the devil in disguise whispering to you in an effort to lead you towards a way that is displeasing to Allah Most High?

The Truth About Marriage

It may be hard for you to believe, but the truth about marriage is that its quality is based upon choices. What you do daily will create what you live in your marriage for a lifetime. Love is a living thing, if you nurture it, it grows, but if you neglect it, it dies.

Thus, happily ever after isn't a fairy tale; it's a choice. It's based on what you choose to do when feelings of dissatisfaction arise, when you don't get your way, when problems continue to resurface, and when unexpected hard times come your way.

With most of the 'bad' situations that you've heard of, the individuals involved had the chance to choose too. Many of them were faced with the same choices that women in good marriages also face during marital upset. The difference in outcome is often a result of the choice to engage in an advantageous or disadvantageous move.

This idea could be particularly challenging for you to swallow if you were raised in a family where your parents divorced or they stayed married but continued to mistreat each other. It is always shattering for

a child to grow up in unstable circumstances, while struggling to make sense of the drama, only to then become an adult and finally settle with the fact that her parents ‘messed up’.

Yet, childhood wounds can heal and they can be used as a means to grow in your *deen*. Many people who come from unpleasant childhood experiences have changed their lives around for the better and you have the opportunity to do the same. You don’t have to relive anyone’s mistakes; you can choose to take a different path for your own future marriage inshaAllah.

The Islamic Happily Ever After

It’s normal and natural for you to want to fall in love, to desire to take care of that special someone, and to hope that he will take care of you.

Allah Most High says: “And among His signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your hearts. Verily in that are signs for those who reflect.” [Qur’an 30:21]

If you ponder over this verse, you will notice that Allah Most High says that He created spouses for the purpose of the two living together in tranquility. Revelation is informing you that marriage is meant to be bliss and blessing – something that brings joy and peace into your life – as it is a means for tremendous spiritual good.

An Islamic marriage is born when two strangers come together with a pure intention to create a Muslim family for the sake of Allah. When you marry, you will swear upon the book of Allah and the *sunna* of the Prophet ﷺ to unite with your future husband as spiritual partners,

promising your Creator that you will help each other live the deen day-in and day-out.

The secret of how to achieve this sacred atmosphere in a marriage is included in the verse too. By consistently showing love and mercy towards one another, you both will create a safe haven for yourselves and your children; a place where you will always feel protected and secure from any outside evil inshaAllah. Thus, if you want to make your future marriage a serene abode, you must make the right choices.

Begin by first clearing your mind of any lingering negative thoughts about marriage. These gloomy beliefs will unfavorably effect your ability to choose wisely.

Action Steps

1. For each ‘bad marriage’ story that you’ve heard, ask yourself if you really know the truth about what actually happened in that situation. Have you heard the husband’s perspective directly from him instead of by word of mouth? Have you seen how the two interacted when alone together in their home? Do you know the 100% truth of what took place in their marriage?
2. Stop hanging around women who openly speak about bad marriages. If you cannot avoid them, then change the subject whenever they talk about negative incidents.
3. Start envisioning what you think married life will entail. Write down your fantasies and dreams on a sheet of paper before proceeding to the next section.

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4.

Fairy Tales Busted

A successful marriage first starts with a promising vision. This vision must be founded upon a commitment to the virtues of hope, compassion, and selflessness. It is from this outlook that determination is born, optimism is sustained, actions are manifest, and love bursts forth into your relationship. When you enter marriage with the right expectations, married life is easy, joyful, and fulfilling; you are also continuously inspired and driven to take care of your husband.

For some single ladies, their perceptions about married life are skewed, and for many, this distortion in perspective began at a young age as a result of watching love affair films and reading utopian romance novels. They grew up with a childhood fantasy of a customized dream husband and a high standard married life. In their little girl minds, they were the Cinderella waiting for prince charming to arrive at their doorstep and lead them away to their imaginary castle in the sky.

Despite the fact that they are now adults, those same expectations subconsciously remain in their minds. The catch is that when they consider a potential suitor, somewhere deep down inside, they hope that he will match up to that fairy tale-version prince who they fell in love with decades ago. If they agree to marry him based on the idea that those delightful daydreams will automatically manifest themselves in their marriage, they could be setting their relationships up for trouble.

In almost every marriage, after the wedding party ends and the excitement wears down, real life kicks in and real faults begin to break through the veil of shiny glitter. For some women, when they see that

their husband refuses to do things their way, or when he mistakenly hurts their feelings by speaking in a straight-forward manner, or when he forgets to take out the overflowing trash, they find themselves asking, “Who is this guy that I married? I thought he was different!” Eventually, married life doesn’t seem that appealing anymore, especially if they keep judging their husband and rating their marriage based on their fantasies.

If you want to avoid this type of heartache, then it is vital that you demystify any fairy tale expectations that you may hold and debunk common myths about what married life should look like.

Fairy Tale Busted: Marriage Is Not A Perfect Story.

Marriage is not just about living a flawless life alone with your prince charming. When you marry your husband, you also marry his family, his previous life, and his problems. Likewise, he marries your family, your previous life, and your problems. Then it all comes together, and you have to find a way of how to live in harmony and make it work.

There will be ups and downs. There will be challenges. There will be disappointments. But there will also be heartwarming moments, good times, and triumphs inshaAllah. This is how life naturally is, and marriage is no different. Marriage is basically living REAL life with a REAL person. It is a constant test of responsibility and maturity because you have to take care of someone else: your husband; and raise someone else: your children; and consider someone else: your in-laws.

The Prophet ﷺ said that marriage is half of your *deen*. Hearing that it is half of your *deen* must mean that it’s serious business and it’s going to be hard. Conversely, it also means that if you succeed at it, the reward is weighty inshaAllah. Thus, you have to go into married life

with a sound intention and mindset – not dreamy, wish-washy concepts that will actually do you more harm than good.

Adopt a more balanced approach. Know that marriage is a means for you to draw nearer to Allah Most High by way of your choices, your decisions, your attitude, and your behavior. A good marriage is a conscious decision. It requires a great deal of personal sacrifice and effort, and it is a daily job that you sign up for when you decide to be a wife.

Fairy Tale Busted: Marriage Is Not A Dream Vacation.

Marriage is not about taking a holiday. Some women have gained the impression that a relationship with a man is all about excitement and thrills. Believing that marriage must be adventurous is yet another fairy tale.

Women who fall into this fantasy easily become bored with their marriages and they're always trying to invent some type of excitement in order to distract themselves. However, being on the lookout for an adrenaline high is not the point of life. Rather, the point of life is to worship Allah Most High.

Due to the push of the entertainment industry and social media spreading artificial images of happiness, many people think that 'having fun' is what will make them feel fulfilled. But it's not – the only thing that makes you feel fulfilled is Islam. Having contentment with your life doesn't come from jumping from one trend to the next, but it comes from being content with what Allah Most High has given you in life, alhamdulillah.

The problem with this fairy tale is that after the newlywed stage ends, people start doubting their marriage. They begin thinking that something is wrong because their relationship is not as ‘exciting’ as it used to be. The truth is that for most people, that’s just what happens. The newlywed stage is but a stage, and couples subsequently settle back into their normal routines. Creating enjoyable moments together will take a conscious effort thereafter, and the simpler they are, the more sustainable it will be to recreate them inshaAllah.

Fairy Tale Busted: Marriage Is Not A Quick Fix.

Marriage is not a magic pill or a way to escape from reality. It won’t fix what you have not taken the means to fix. It is not a means for you to run away from the problems in your life. It is idealistic to think, “When I get married, I’ll feel better about myself.” That’s not how it usually works.

If you have difficulties with your parents now, you will most likely still have them after marriage. If you have glitches with your character now, you will probably still have them after marriage. If you have issues with your emotional stability now, you may still have them after marriage.

Essentially, marriage cannot fix your personal issues, but Islam can. Following the teachings of the *deen* is the best medicine for resolving these drawbacks inshaAllah. However, at the same time, it doesn’t mean that marriage cannot better your life. Marriage can put these issues into perspective, which serves as a stepping stone for overcoming them.

For example, maybe after having children you begin to realize how amazing your parents are and how much they’ve done for you. Or maybe you learn how to practice patience by way of sharing your life

with another human being. Or maybe you feel so satisfied with married life that you finally feel at peace internally. It wasn't your husband that did that for you, but it was Allah Most High who perfected your nature and fixed it alhamdulillah.

Debunking Common Myths

Several relationship experts in today's times have studied common misconceptions that people generally have about what it takes to make a marriage succeed or fail. Leading marital therapist Michele Weiner-Davis discusses the top seven in her book "The Divorce Remedy." Below is a brief summary of four of them.

Myth #1: Conflict and anger are signs that the relationship is failing.

False. Every marriage has fights, but happy couples choose their battles wisely. They learn how to distinguish between important issues and petty issues. In short, they get smarter about what they fight about.

Myth #2: You're more likely to divorce if there are differences in your backgrounds, likes and dislikes, and interests.

False. Some people think, "If I marry someone just like me, my marriage is less likely to fail." However, happy couples are sometimes very different from each other. Yet, they appreciate their unique differences and consider the variety in styles a plus for their relationship. As such, happy couples learn how to deal with their

differences and handle the conflict that arises from it. Outside of conflict, they nurture any interests that they do share.

Alhamdulillah, as a Muslim, you automatically have a common interest to nurture with your husband once you marry, and it is Islam.

Myth #3: In healthy marriages, spouses have the same definition of what it means to be loving.

False. No one has the same definition of love in this world. Real love is about understanding what it takes to make your husband feel loved and showing love based on that definition, not yours. It's about giving to him, whether you like it or not, agree with it or not. That's true love.

Myth #4: People just fall out of love.

False. You have to make your marriage work. Marriage must be a priority for you. People grow apart because they're not happily sharing their lives together. Love isn't just a feeling, it's a decision; what you decide to do daily is what makes your marriage.

In summary, if you start a marriage off with the wrong mindset, it can be a hindrance for you once problems arise. The more attached you are to those false ideals, the quicker they become excuses for why your relationship is not good enough. Furthermore, if you don't learn how to properly run your marriage from the beginning, you're left to your own devices to figure out how to make a marriage work, and that could be hazardous.

So how do you form a blissful Islamic marriage from the start? Namely, what actions make a good marriage? The solution rests in **returning to what revelation says.**

Action Steps

1. Relook at your answers from #3 in the previous exercise. Do you notice any fairy tale expectations based on what was mentioned in this section? Circle them and then ask yourself: “Is this really necessary for my happiness?”
2. If the answer is ‘no’, cross that expectation off the list.
3. If the answer is ‘yes’, quickly jot down the reasons for why they are so important to you. This knowledge will help you in later sections when discussing how to know yourself better and how to choose a husband inshaAllah.

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5.

The Secret Recipe

All master chefs have their own recipes. The great thing about a recipe is that it can be passed on, and anyone who follows it will easily get the same results. It's a known principle in life as well: If someone has done something before, all you have to do is understand what they did, mimic it, and you'll get the same results too inshaAllah.

Through the *Qur'an* and *sunna*, Muslims have a God-given recipe of how to make a marriage work. It's what Muslim women have been using for centuries in their own successful marriages and now Muslima Coaching would like to pass it on to you.

The *deen* teaches that having a blissful Islamic marriage boils down to three main ingredients:

- ❖ God-consciousness
- ❖ Good character
- ❖ Gender difference appreciation

God-consciousness

God-consciousness means to be actively aware of Allah Most High's presence such that you make Him the priority in your life. It is about staying far away from Allah's limits so that you are always engaging in what is pleasing to Allah Most High. It is about remembering that

Allah Most High sees and hears everything that you do, and you will be asked about it.

Making Allah Most High your priority includes giving other people the rights that they deserve. When a woman decides to marry and assume the position of a wife, she is declaring her devotion to fulfilling an incumbent act of worship. Thus, living up to your role as a Muslim wife is not an option, but rather it is an obligation.

The Prophet ﷺ said, “By the One who Muhammad’s soul is in His hands, a woman does not fulfill the right of her Lord until she fulfills the right of her husband.” (ibn Majah)

This is why God-consciousness is key. When you work on remembering Allah Most High throughout your day and focus on the fact that He sees you, your behavior quickly changes. People act differently when they know that they are being watched. Being conscious of Allah Most High’s presence is what will help you to consistently live up to your wife duties and motivate you to be the best wife that you can be inshaAllah.

Moreover, no one can make things easy for you except Allah Most High. When you make your intention to fulfill your wife duties for His sake, the ease will come inshaAllah. Actions are by intentions, and staying true to your intention to be a good wife will put more blessings in your efforts and marriage inshaAllah.

Alhamdulillah, when you give more to Allah Most High, Allah gives back to you and in ways that are indescribable. He is the Giver of All (al-Wahhab) and the Opener (al-Fattah). Make your relationship with Him the foundation of your life and everything else will fall into place inshaAllah.

Good Character

From God-consciousness, what naturally follows is a desire to demonstrate gracious, good character with your husband, in-laws, and children.

The Prophet ﷺ said, “**The most perfect of believers in faith are those that are best in their character.** And the best of you are those that are best in character to their wives.” (Tirmidhi)

Many times the last portion of this *hadith* is stated, but the reality is that the Prophet ﷺ was speaking to all Muslims about their character, not just to husbands. All Muslims must demonstrate the strength of their faith in their everyday actions by displaying good Islamic character. Your interactions with people are a test of how true your love is for Allah Most High and the message that He sent for mankind. For wives, this is especially true with how they react to the circumstances in their marriages and how they treat their husbands.

Marriage is a friendship, and you cannot have a lifelong bond with someone without showing good character. If you think about what attracts you to spending time with someone, it's not because you know that they pray 100 prayers or fast 100 fasts; it's really about the way that they treat you. Everyone is drawn to someone who is warm, giving, cheerful, and loving.

The Prophet ﷺ said, “Verily a believer reaches the rank of someone who fasts all day and prays all night with his good character.” (Abu Dawud)

A wife who focuses on demonstrating good character gets what she wants out of her relationship. She knows that being a Muslim wife is built upon being the best Muslim that she can be. It's never a war

between her and her husband, but it is a test of love between her and her Creator.

The Prophet ﷺ said, “There is nothing heavier on the scale pan of a believer on the Day of Judgment but good character.” (Tirmidhi)

In order to know what good character is, you must look at how the Prophet ﷺ treated people. He ﷺ was known to be the most gentle, loving, caring human being to ever walk the face of the earth. He ﷺ was patient and kind, even when others were harsh with him or persecuted him. He ﷺ would turn his body completely to face anyone who spoke to him, making them feel like they were important and needed to be heard, regardless of their social standing. SubhanAllah, he is the true exemplar and guide of how Muslims need to interact with others.

But it's easier said than done. Good character shows itself not when you first meet someone, but when you're in a situation where you're angry, upset, and frustrated. If you are still able to stay calm, composed, and considerate, then this is how you know that you have good character. When you're in a good mood, of course it comes easily.

Thus, if you base your marriage on chemistry alone, you will lose because love is not just a 'feeling' or an 'idea.' It is a behavior, a practice, a conscious decision, and a constant contribution. It is an opening for self-discovery, growth, and improvement. It is a shared vision for the future that you slowly work towards everyday by acting upon the principles of good Islamic character.

Gender Difference Appreciation

And the best spice: good ole controversial gender differences, which is comprised of acknowledging that Allah Most High created men and women to be different, appreciating that these differences are for your benefit, and upholding them when interacting with your husband.

Allah Most High says: “And the male is **not like** the female.” [Qur’an 3:36]

Aside from the obvious physical differences, men and women are also dissimilar in the way that they think, communicate, and emotionally respond. However, different does not mean that one gender is bad and the other is better. Rather, when these differences are validated and accepted, they flatter each other, especially in a romantic relationship.

Consequently, when a wife learns how men work, and works with that knowledge – not against it – she often relieves a lot of the tension and hurt in a marriage because her husband feels understood. Sometimes women mistakenly expect men to feel and act the way that women do, and men can do the same with women. When situations occur in everyday marital life, it’s easy to forget that men and women are supposed to be different – it’s the way Allah willed it.

Furthermore, the Prophet ﷺ cursed women who acted like men and men who acted like women. This means that women are meant to be feminine, and men are meant to be masculine.

It is no surprise that Islam actively encourages men to be men and women to be women since men are **instinctively attracted to feminine women** and women are instinctively attracted to masculine men. This polarity in genders is what pulls each to the other. By resorting to her femininity, a wife has the natural keys at her fingertips to captivate her husband’s heart.

The recipe for success was given to us from the start. Men and women can be successfully married together, and this is another sign that Islam is the truth.

Hopefully these past sections taught you that there is a difference between wanting a good marriage versus making the decision to have a good marriage. You can't just want it, but you must have a burning desire for it and actively take the steps to create it, even if it means learning new ways.

You have the ability to make things right from the start. You have the chance to make it easier than harder. You have the opportunity to learn the tools that will make your future marriage prosper. For the remainder of this guide, Muslima Coaching's advice will direct you on how to get there inshaAllah.

Actions Steps

1. Become more God-conscious by reminding yourself that Allah Most High sees and hears what you do.
2. Practice good character with others by trying the following:
 - ❖ Be patient with others, especially when they upset you.
 - ❖ Give daily gifts of kindness by lending a helping hand.
 - ❖ Be considerate of other people's feelings.
3. Make a list of examples that you've seen of how men and women act differently and how they act the same. Keep it in a safe place for the next section inshaAllah.

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