

How Can I Get My Husband To Act Like a Man, not a Boy?

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How can a wife get her husband to act like a man instead of a four-year-old? We've been married for almost a year — he was 38 and I was 27 at the time, so we're not children. He comes into the house with dirty shoes on, won't wear pajamas to bed, drops his clothes on the floor instead of hanging them up, and likes to wear dirty, wrinkled shirts. We're expecting our first child soon, but he doesn't seem interested and feels we shouldn't get anything ready until after the baby arrives. Also, he doesn't like the foods that are supposed to be good for him. What kind of an example will he be for our children? P.S. He wasn't anything like this before we got married!

I think most experienced women — and mothers — will recognize a familiar note in your letter. Having dealt with the masculine half of the species, man and boy, for years, they are well aware that husbands and sons tend to have wills of their own.

Young wives, in particular, are often distressed by this discovery. The young man who seemed to be so flexible and accommodating during courtship quickly reverts to the independent, exasperatingly careless male his mother probably struggled over for years, once he is married.

Hence your problem, Dorothy, is not unique though it may appear in many different forms and degrees. Differences in training and family backgrounds constitute an obvious source of such disagreements.

Most adults are slow to modify the attitudes, likes or dislikes, and ways of doing things acquired in youth. This is especially true in matters related to the intimacies of family life, for we are raised in relatively closed family circles and consequently have little comparative knowledge of other patterns, so that we grow up believing that our ways are both natural and normal.

Moreover, most of us are creatures of habit. We cling to the familiar and the accustomed even though we know that other ways may be better or more efficient. This is not a distinctively masculine trait, as husbands who have been trained as effi-



ency experts in industry or business soon learn when they try to get their wives to adopt some of their methods around the home. In this connection I always think of the response of the old Ozark farmer to the young agricultural expert. "Save your breath, son, I already know how to farm a darn sight better'n I'm doing!"

There is an additional factor involved in getting people to adopt the new, for such change assumes not only that the new is better but that the old is somehow inferior or defective. This latter assumption may arouse considerable resentment, above all in matters related to personal habits or family customs, since we don't like the implied condemnation of what we are or of the way that we were raised.

Granting your inalienable right to try to change your husband, Dorothy, how should you go about it? First, examine your attitude toward the things you dislike in him. Remember that there are many different ways of doing things, and you must avoid

the common mistake of confusing what is different or what is morally wrong or evil. Many mere differences in taste or custom become such serious sources of marital conflict because they are treated as moral issues.

Second, something every woman knows or eventually learns if she wishes to be successful in marriage or at work is that men dislike taking orders from women. Wives may find this attitude quite unreasonable around the home where they are supposed to be in charge, yet they cannot ignore it without paying a price, for their husbands will show their resentment either by stubbornly refusing to comply even with the most reasonable request or will find some other way of causing frustration. One common means is to force their wives to call them a half-dozen times for dinner. This seemingly innocent maneuver seldom fails.

Third, following a pattern they learned as boys, many husbands take for granted that they are supposed to protest at their wives' demands regarding neatness, cleanliness, and so on. This masculine protest is not wholly sincere — boys and men expect to be "mothered" in this respect though they feel they must assert their independence by not giving in too easily.

If I understand your problem correctly, Dorothy, you are just going through the necessary though painful process of adjusting your ideal conceptions to reality. As a rule, adults change very little and very slowly.

Yet a clever wife can work wonders if she tries to understand her man. Don't be too disturbed by your husband's apparent lack of concern for paternity. Make the necessary preparations quietly. The coming of your first baby will do the rest.

the mother, the homemaker, or the teacher, shining examples of true Christian living? Her job is 24 hours a day, 365 days a year as she constantly strives to mold, cultivate, educate and inspire these children entrusted to her loving care to become upright Catholic citizens. Besides she has to be a helpmate, generous in encouragement and understanding, and in a sense an unerring guidepost for her husband. If he is in business for himself, his time is taken supporting his family and trying to keep abreast or ahead in this highly competitive world.

For this reason, the woman is frequently urged to participate in community activities, fund-raising drives, volunteer services, such as Cancer Clinics, Red Cross Bloodmobile, Friendly Red Door, Community Chest, or to mention a few, if she is fortunate enough to have had business training, she should step right in and do his secretarial work. She has to be ready to meet people, especially patrons, affably, talk intelligently about something besides the next door neighbor and changing the baby's diapers and be able to entertain graciously.

In addition to the social graces and keen business acumen, she is expected to be a good planner and organizer in order to keep the family budget out of the red.

Naturally, if one's children are active in Youth programs, so are you. This means being a Brownie and Girl Scout leader, Den Mother, Little League sponsor and fund raiser, serving on the policy making committee of these organizations, and checking their code of ethics and leadership.

Be aware of what is happening on your Town and School Boards. Be ready to serve regardless of whether your children attend public schools or not; participate in P.T.A. functions and lectures. Be cooperative and willing to take office in your own church groups and contribute your talents to their organizations.

Maybe all of these things mentioned could be done with- out a college education, but, in my opinion, they would be accomplished more efficiently and with more assurance by the girl who has had the whole and proper training and background that a Catholic Liberal Arts col- lege offers her.

Send Daughter To College?

(Continued from Page 1)

of her responsibilities, eager to see the Universe as a whole in its relation to the Creator and Redeemer of all things and equipped to contribute to this society in which she lives.

Upon you rests the obligation to develop and guide her talents in the true light as well as to mold her into an attractive, poised and socially competent young woman capable of intelligent and devoted service to God, her community and her family. Who better than your daughter, thus nurtured and directed, may lead a more mature, meaningful Christian life and have a better understanding of Truth and Beauty both in the natural and supernatural order?

"Fine," you are going to say, "This is all very desirable and ideal, but let's be practical. I can give her all this without spending \$5000. Probably, she'll get married anyway right after she graduates from college."

Very well, indeed, but can you guarantee her financial independence after she has been married ten years and may have four or five children? Tragedy may strike—her husband, the head of the household, may be permanently injured or killed. Does she have anything concrete or basic to fall back on, such as an A.B. or B.S. degree, now that she has become the sole supporter of her family? Can she step into the business world or the teaching profession and demand a salary commensurate with her family needs?

I speak from experience because my father died when I was four years old and my oldest brother twelve. You can be certain my mother who was left with five small children was mighty glad that she had her A.B. degree and could start teaching almost immediately. With God's help, blessings and lots of hard work and planning four of us are college graduates today. I pray this does not happen to me.

Regardless of this fact, let's look at the subject in another way. How important it is for a woman who has chosen the marriage state and family life to have had a Catholic college education when she is called upon to raise this training. When does a Catholic college education play a more vital part than in the daily routine of the wife,

Royal Rites Broke Signed Promises

Fribourg — (RNS) — Catholic authorities have charged ex-King Simeon II of Bulgaria and his Spanish bride of "breaking promises" by marrying in an Eastern Orthodox church after having been wed in a Catholic ceremony, it was disclosed here.

Former King Simeon is Orthodox and his wife, the former Margarita Gomez Acebo y Cejuela, is a Catholic.

Swiss diocesan authorities issued a statement saying the couple were married at a Catholic ceremony in Spain before their much-publicized wedding in a Russian Orthodox church at Vevey on Jan. 21.

The date and place of the hitherto unpublished Catholic wedding was not given, but the diocesan authorities said it remains valid.

They said Mgr. Raymond Schmidt, Vicar General of the Diocese of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg, obtained a statement from the Holy See following erroneous reports that Pope John XXIII had sanctioned two religious ceremonies.

The statement said the Holy See accorded only a dispensation for a mixed marriage after the couple had signed promises prescribed by Canon Law.

It said the couple had agreed not to appear before a minister of another church after the Catholic wedding ceremony. They also, it added, undertook to bring up any children of the union in the Catholic faith.

Diocesan authorities denied the reports that the couple had been given a dispensation to bring up some of their children as Catholics and some as Orthodox.

Precepts Require Heroism

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Catholic Church may, when necessary, modify its precepts to the rhythm of modern life in order to make them easier to perform, but at the same time it cannot but confirm the principles underlying its commandments.

This was stressed by the Vatican Radio in a broadcast commenting on a session of the Central Preparatory Commission for the Second Vatican Council which was devoted to this topic and to the parish priest's responsibility for the care of souls.

Talks on the subjects were given by Pietro Cardinal Ciriaci, president of the Commission for the Discipline of the Clergy, one of the special bodies set up in connection with the forthcoming Ecumenical Council.

Vatican Radio's broadcast said modern conditions may prompt modifications of the Church's precepts, but "although times and needs may change, the human soul does not change and it must continue to follow the same roads if it wishes to reach salvation."

THE PRECEPTS of the Church are: 1) To assist at Mass and rest from servile work on all Sundays and holidays of obligation; 2) to fast and abstain on the days commanded; 3) to go to confession at least once a year; 4) to receive the Blessed Sacrament once a year at Easter time; 5) to contribute to the support of the pastor according to one's means; and 6) not to marry within certain degrees of kindred, nor to marry with solemnity at forbidden times.

The broadcast said the Church is "fully aware of the obstacles which makes it difficult—sometimes, indeed, a matter of heroism—for Christians to fulfill their duties, particu-

larly in the observance of the Church's precepts." "She has," it said, "in the last few years granted wishes to make it easier for people to observe these precepts by giving facilities for the celebration of evening Masses, diminishing the duration of the Eucharistic fasts, and transferring to more opportune periods—or else diminishing—the days of fast and abstinence."

"However, the Vatican broadcast noted, "although the

Ecumenical Council, while it takes so many modern needs into account, cannot, at the same time, altogether suppress those forms of prayers and penitence which the Church, in its wisdom, has decreed from the earliest centuries as being the most useful for the purification and sanctification of souls. If the Council is to be an affirmation of spirituality in times of widespread materialism and hedonism, it cannot but confirm the principles of the Church's precepts."

New Book On Bishops

New York — (NC) — The phenomenal growth in numbers of the American hierarchy during the past 25 years will be revealed in the new edition of the "Dictionary of the American Hierarchy."

Mgr. Joseph B. Code, the book's author and director of the St. Paul Guild, New York, said the volume will contain 830 biographies as against 498 in the first edition of 1939—an increase of 332.



Pope Receives The Robert Kennedys

Vatican City — (RNS) — Attorney General and Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy are received by Pope John XXIII in an audience at the Vatican. The pontiff spent 20 minutes with Mr. Kennedy in private conversation in his library; they were then joined by Mrs. Kennedy and members of the U.S. Justice Department. The Vatican newspaper Osservatore Romano said the Pope followed Astronaut John Glenn's flight with "prayers and expressions of his pleasure." The pontiff was reported to have told the Kennedys: "What a good thing the Americans have made it."

Ceylon Shackles Church Freedom

London — (NC) — Amnesty, a movement aimed at securing the release of prisoners jailed for their religious or political beliefs, has charged here that the government of Ceylon is planning to shackle the Church in Ceylon.

The movement said that most if not all of 23 persons arrested for allegedly trying to overthrow the Ceylonese regime are Catholics. It accused the government of trying to make the arrests appear as evidence of a plot by Catholic Action members in that predominantly Buddhist nation of southeast Asia.

AMNESTY stated it had received a report from Ceylon that the prisoners — 22 army officers and a police officer — will be tried by a special court set up for the occasion. The movement added that it will "strive every nerve to win for the detainees a fair and impartial trial."

(Since the leftist government headed by Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike came into office in July of 1960, Ceylon has nationalized virtually all private schools. Out of a former total of about 750 Catholic schools in the nation, there are now only 42 continuing under Church auspices. Another

move hitting the Church in Ceylon was the government's imposition last summer of an \$85-a-year "temporary residence tax" on foreign priests and Religious, Annual per capita income in Ceylon is only an estimated \$125.)



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