

FASCINATING WOMANHOOD®

Updated Edition



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BANTAM BOOKS

NEW YORK • TORONTO • LONDON • SYDNEY • AUCKLAND

Introduction to Childlikeness

*Except ye be converted and become as little children
ye shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. Mat.18:3*



What is meant by the Biblical statement, *except ye become as little children*? Doesn't it imply they have traits we should copy? Children tend to be trustful, teachable, believing, and forgiving.

We should copy the manner in which children express emotions, especially the emotion of anger. When a child is offended he doesn't respond with an ugly, cutting remark, nor does he conceal his feelings. His emotions surface quickly and dramatically! He is honest and outspoken. Instead of holding a grudge, he tends to be forgiving.

Childlikeness teaches you how to handle difficult and common problems in marriage. You learn how to express yourself when you are angry, and how to react when he is angry with you, or when he is stern, harsh, or cross. With a childlike response you can, in a small moment, turn the night to day. You learn the right way to ask for things, and he responds by *wanting* to do things for you.

Up to now I have suggested you do a lot of giving—accept your husband's weaknesses, appreciate him, admire him, make him number one, honor his leadership, and be an ideal wife. Childlikeness is a balance to this. Now the concern is with you, your needs and feelings, your moments of pain. You learn to handle these moments in a way to preserve your self-dignity, to keep from feeling like a doormat. In so doing you command his respect, his tenderness, and his love. This adds a new dimension to your relationship, a new ingredient to your love. It takes the thorns out of marriage and makes it fun.

Childlikeness is one of the most charming traits taught in

Fascinating Womanhood. It is the spice and spark of the subject and keeps the angelic side from becoming cloyesome. Men love this trait in women. It amuses and fascinates them because it is a contrast to their masculine strength.

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Childlike Anger



Are you ever upset or angry with your husband? If so, why? Think for a moment. Isn't it because he has *mistreated* you in some way? I am referring to times he has been *harshly critical, unkind or unfair, or has insulted you, neglected or ignored you*. He has *hurt your feelings, disappointed you*, or in some way *upset you*.

When he does these things how do you handle it? Do you fly off the handle with a nasty temper? Do you shrink back as if wounded? Do you retreat into your shell? Or, do you hold your tongue, but smolder inside? The trouble with these reactions is they create resentments, cool feelings, and provoke arguments. And they make you look ugly and feel terrible. Since none of these methods work, consider a childlike response:

Childlike Anger

Childlike anger is the cute, pert, saucy anger of a little child. There is no better school for learning childlike anger than watching the antics of little children, especially little girls who have been spoiled by too much loving. They are so trusting and innocent, and yet so piquant and outspoken, they are often teased into anger. They are too innocent to feel hate, jealousy, resentment, and the uglier emotions.

When such a child is teased, she doesn't respond with some hideous sarcasm. Instead, she stamps her foot and shakes her curls and pouts. She gets adorably angry at herself because her efforts to respond are impotent. Finally, she switches off

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How to Express Childlike Anger

1. *Character*: To express anger with the innocence of a child there must be an absence of bitterness, resentment, hate, sarcasm, or the ugly emotions. If you have a harsh, critical, disposition you'll not be able to express childlike anger until you overcome these serious weaknesses of character.

2. *Manner*: Learn childlike mannerisms by studying the antics of little girls: Stomp your foot, lift your chin high, square your shoulders, pout, put both hands on your hips, open your eyes wide, mumble under your breath, or turn and walk briskly away, then pause and look back over your shoulder. Or, beat your fists on your husband's chest. You may have to be an actress to succeed, if only a ham actress. But, remember, you'll be launching an acting career which will save you pain, tension, frustration, a damaged relationship, and perhaps even a marriage. Is any acting career of greater importance? No, so turn on the drama. It is guaranteed to ease tension and bring humor into your life instead of pain.

3. *Use Adjectives*: Acquire a list of adjectives which *compliment his masculinity*, such as *big, tough, brute, stubborn, obstinate, or hairy beast*. Other appropriate adjectives are *unyielding, determined, difficult, hard-hearted, inflexible, unruly, stiff-necked, indomitable, and invincible*. Be certain your words compliment his masculinity. Never use words which belittle masculinity such as *little, imp, pip-squeak, insignificant, weak, simpleminded, or dumb*.

4. *Exaggerate*: Exaggerate his treatment of you by saying, for example: "*How can a great big man like you pick on a poor little helpless girl like me!*" Or, "*So this is the way you treat a poor little defenseless woman.*" Or, "*Oh, what a dreadful thing to do!*" Or, be charmingly defensive by saying, "*I'm just a poor, erring, wayward little human being.*" Or, "*Everyone has at least one little fault. Nobody's perfect!*"

Or, make exaggerated childlike threats by saying, "*I'll never speak to you again.*" Or, "*I won't do anything for you anymore.*" Or, "*I'll tell your mother on you.*" Or, if he insults you in public say, "*Wait until I get you home alone.*" Or, "*I'll get even with you.*" Be sure your expressions represent a trustful, feminine woman of high character, not a vulgar, overbearing, or suspicious one.

and threatens never to speak to you again, then glances back at you over her shoulder to see if you thought she really meant it, only to stomp her foot in impatience when she sees you're not the least bit fooled.

A scene such as this invariably makes us smile with amusement. We feel an irresistible longing to pick up such a child and hug it. We would do anything rather than permit such an adorable little thing to suffer danger or want; to protect and care for such a delightfully human little creature would be nothing less than a delight.

This is much the same feeling a woman inspires in a man when she expresses anger in a childlike way. Her ridiculous exaggeration of manner makes him suddenly want to laugh; makes him feel, in contrast, stronger, more sensible, and more of a man. This is why women who are little spitfires—*independent and saucy*—are often sought after by men. This anger, however, must be the sauciness of a child, and not the intractable stubbornness of a woman well able to *kill her own snakes*.

Dora's Anger

An example of childlike anger is found in the story of David Copperfield. In this particular situation, David criticized Dora because she didn't manage the hired help well; because of this, one of them had stolen Dora's gold watch. David put the blame on Dora. "*I began to be afraid,*" said David, "*that the fault is not entirely on one side, but that these people turn out ill because we don't turn out very well ourselves.*"

"*Oh, what an accusation!*" exclaimed Dora, opening her eyes wide, "*to say that you ever saw me take gold watches. Oh! Oh! you cruel fellow, to compare your affectionate wife to a transported page!*" [hired boy]. "*Why didn't you tell me your opinion of me before we were married? Why didn't you say, you hard-hearted thing, that you were convinced that I was worse than a transported page. Oh, what a dreadful opinion to have of me! Oh, my goodness!*"

Please note that Dora used *strong adjectives* to describe David's treatment of her such as *cruel* and *hard-hearted*. She also *exaggerated* his treatment of her by saying he had implied she was a thief. Such means of expressing anger are childlike.

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Why do children tend to exaggerate? Because they feel little and helpless in the presence of adults or even other children. Unconsciously, in moments of frustration, they try to make up for their smallness by exaggerations. Therefore, when a woman uses this same method, she gives the man the impression she is little, helpless, and therefore childlike.

5. *Tears*: If you feel the impulse for tears it can be childlike. Be certain it reflects the innocence of a child and not the emotional turmoil of a deeply disturbed woman. There is nothing which so frustrates a man as a hysterical woman.

When You Have a Right to Be Angry

You have a right to be angry when you have been in any way mistreated—treated unfairly, insulted, criticized, imposed on, neglected, ignored, or teased.

You *don't* have a right to be angry when your husband has failed in his world of responsibility, when he has made a stupid mistake in his work or lost his job, or neglected to cut the lawn, balance the budget, or wash the car. He has a right to be himself, even if it means to be weak and lazy, to neglect his duty, or even to fail. This is his department.

Also, *don't* express anger when you feel the emotions of hate, bitterness, resentments, or any of the ugly emotions. Instead, pour out your angry feelings to a trusted friend or parent, or engage in hard physical work. Work on your character, especially the qualities of humility, acceptance, and forgiveness. Only when ugly emotions have been overcome can anger be expressed in a childlike way.

Express childlike anger *at the moment of offense*, not sometime later when you've had time to decide what to say. This means you'll have to think quickly or plan some reactions ahead of time. If you don't respond *at the moment*, consider it your failure. You may as well forgive and forget. Review the situation and be prepared with a response next time. Don't blame your husband. It is you who have failed. So, even though you may not always respond with childlike anger, just knowing you should have done, and could have done, softens your feelings.

Also don't use childlike anger as a means of reforming his treatment of you, thinking he will stop insulting and ne-

glecting you. He may, but on the other hand, he may continue to mistreat you. If he does, continue to respond with childlike anger. The only purpose of childlike anger is to *vent troubled feelings, ease painful moments, preserve self-dignity, and be fascinating*.

Express anger in times of *medium offenses*. In other words, it's best to overlook trifles, lest we appear picky. Major offenses may be so disturbing they are difficult to approach with childlikeness (not impossible). But, do apply childlike anger in times of *medium offenses*.

Major Offenses

There are serious ways men mistreat women—infidelity, physical abuse, gross neglect, nonsupport, and lack of respect for human rights and liberty. If your husband mistreats you in any of these serious ways, live the entire philosophy of *Fascinating Womanhood* for a period of time to soften his heart and bring about a reformation in his behavior. You may be the one who has brought out his ugly side by lack of acceptance, admiration, and sympathetic understanding, and a failure to place him number one. Give him a chance to respond to the new you. If he is physically or mentally dangerous, remove yourself and your children from the household.

A Word to Those Who Resist Childlike Anger

Some women think the idea of childlike anger ridiculous. They wonder, "How can a grown up woman like me take the part of a little girl who stomps her foot, shakes her curls, and pouts? How can I look adorable when I am angry?" Why not try it? It may seem absurd to you, but why not let your husband decide? Of course, if you don't play your part well, if you laugh and act ridiculous you'll make a fool of yourself. You don't *have* to stomp your foot and shake your curls. You can just use adjectives, exaggerations, and amusing statements.

Other women claim they don't need childlike anger, that everything is going along fine for them. This may be true, in some cases, but as long as we have men who are thoughtless and critical, and sensitive women who become upset, angry,

or resentful towards their husbands, we need childlike anger or an effective alternative.

If you can't express anger in a childlike way, do find an acceptable means of expressing it so you won't form resentments toward your husband and thus harm your marriage relationship. In fact, you owe it to your husband as well as yourself to express anger. You do him no favor to smother your angry feelings and hold resentments. Eliminating these problems is the main purpose of childlike anger. It builds better marriages.

How to Overcome Anger

As long as you are angry, as long as you experience the troubled feeling within, seek effective means of dealing with this problem. In the mean time, overcome the tendency to anger in the following ways:

1. *Spiritual Growth*: Learn to be forgiving, understanding, and patient. Allow for the mistakes and human frailties of others. This leads to spiritual growth. In this way you overcome the tendency to anger. You no longer experience the turmoil and distressing feelings which accompany anger. However, on the path to perfection you are still a human being, prone to anger. Deal with this human fault by expressing childlike anger.

2. *Self-esteem*: When you have a good self-image you are less likely to be offended and therefore less prone to anger. With self-esteem comes an invulnerability of spirit which keeps you from being hurt, a "*sticks and stones will break my bones but words will never hurt me*" attitude. When you are invulnerable to criticism or abuse you feel, "*I know you neglect me, criticize me, or treat me unfairly, but I know you love me too much to do this intentionally*." In this way you are marvelously freed from the damaging effects of offenses. The following are childlike success stories:

Saucy

"When I tried a saucy response to my husband's thoughtlessness, he said, 'That was so cute, let's do it again.'"

A Pout

"I had my doubts about applying childlikeness, for I didn't think I could do it. Then one time when I was offended I just stuck out my lower lip, just slightly and my husband said, 'You look so cute when you do that,' and we both forgot what we were upset about."

I Stomped My Foot

"Before breakfast one morning I was cooking pancakes. My husband was in a cross, ugly mood and finally snapped something ridiculous at me. I stamped my little foot (size nine) and exclaimed, 'You cross old bear! You great big bully, talking that way to me.' I tossed my head and turned back to the stove. 'I think I'll just burn your pancakes,' I added, glancing back over my shoulder with a mischievous look, to see if he was watching. He was grinning from ear to ear and the black, ugly mood was gone. It took me four months to try childlikeness because it seemed so silly. For months I practiced in front of a mirror, using the right adjectives!"

Pillow Fight

"We had just experienced one of those terrible weekends where every flick of an eyelash is misinterpreted and the tension so thick you could cut it with a knife. So my husband could have the peace and quiet he wanted I took our five-year-old to the park and kept her until dinnertime, then quickly rushed her to bed.

"Very soon afterward I dejectedly, resentfully, and rather tearfully crawled into bed with my *Fascinating Womanhood* book. What should I read but the part about sauciness. I didn't have any idea how to be saucy and I didn't have any curls to toss. Try to imagine me sitting up in bed, talking to myself as to what I would say and practicing sauciness. I became so involved that I completely forgot about my resentment and began to laugh at myself.

"When my husband came to bed I popped up with a pout on my face and said saucily, 'I hope you have enjoyed your ole peace and quiet because I have been utterly miserable.' He

was so amused that he picked up a pillow and threw it at me and I threw it back and we had a good laugh. He said he realized he had been unfair and he would take our child to the park the next weekend and I could have the peace and quiet. Without *Fascinating Womanhood* I'm afraid this story would have had a different ending. Through sauciness there was a happy ending."

From a Little Girl

"I am ten years old and going into the sixth grade. My mom has the book *Fascinating Womanhood*. One day about two months ago she told me to take *Fascinating Womanhood* to my teacher and let her read it. But it was too late. Her husband had died about six years ago. But it still didn't hurt for her to read it. She didn't have time to read it in class because she was too busy getting mad at some boys who had been playing hooky the day before.

"I told her she could take it home with her to read and she did. The next morning she came to school with a real pretty dress on. She said, 'That's a fantastic book. If more people would read it and do what it says there wouldn't be any more divorces. Can I borrow it again?' 'It's OK with me,' I replied. Now, whenever she gets mad she uses sauciness and has a soft voice. Thanks to *Fascinating Womanhood* for everything."

My Hairy Beast

"My marriage was like so many, an armed truce. We had vowed 'for better or for worse' and it had been mostly 'worse.' My husband never wore his ring, and spent little time with me or our two children. He made it very clear that he didn't need me at all. His father had often yelled at and beaten his mother, so my husband went the opposite direction. He seldom spoke and never touched me.

"In the fall, just half a year after buying a new home, he was transferred 2,200 miles away. The children and I stayed behind to sell the house. He went on to get a new house. I was to live in what he picked. I was not considered at all.

"One lonely day I was pouring my heart out to a friend, telling her what I had decided to do. I can't count the times

she said, "That's not what you should do!" or "That is not the way to handle it!" I got mad at her, but undaunted she persisted with F.W. and more F.W. I called her a *Fascinating Womanhood* fanatic!

"My husband flew home on weekends. I planned all week. It is a good thing he left on Sunday evening for my self-control lasted about two days. Over those two days I pretended that things were as I wanted them to be and I acted the part. When I met him at the airport I went early, parked the car, and went to the gate. (Usually I met him out front.) I dressed my most feminine. I built myself up to a breathless pitch. When I saw him coming I ran to meet him and flung my arms around him, telling him I was glad to see him and that I had missed him. Everyone in the area was looking. One would have thought he was returning from a year as prisoner of war. He had always shunned any emotional display, even in private, calling it disgusting. Now he didn't say anything but he was touched. In the car I sat close and kept my mouth shut, my hand lightly touching him, and with my eyes I drank him in. He was overwhelmed.

"That was the beginning. Three weekends later he suggested I leave the children with my mother and join him for a week to select a house from several he had seen. On that trip I expressed admiration for the beauty of the area, searched for the good, and delightfully enjoyed. I was the epitome of understanding. The high point of the trip came one evening after we had decided to build. We were staying at the home of a bachelor friend of his.

"I was doing the dinner dishes while my husband was showing the bachelor, who was very desirous of marriage, our plans. My husband began saying over and over things like, "So you want to get married. Boy, you don't know when you're well off . . . look at the headaches a wife can bring." At first I took it as a joke, but soon it wasn't funny anymore.

"As I scrubbed one plate I thought, 'If I hear him say that once more I'll really tell him.' Then I thought, 'What have I read in F.W. about anger?' I gave it a try. I turned around, stomped my foot, and said, 'You big hairy beast! I'm never going to like you again, ever!' and walked out of the room, turning as I went to glance over my shoulder with a tiny smile. I don't think he saw it. He was grinning from ear to ear. 'Did

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A Childlike Response

When a Man Is Angry, Cross, Irritable, or Stern



There are two sources of anger in a marriage. One is when you are angry with your husband. The other is when he is angry with you. Always keep these two situations separate and don't confuse them. *When you are angry with your husband*, respond as suggested in the last chapter. *When he is angry with you*, respond in a different way:

The Gentle Way

Women have thought of all sorts of things to say when a man is angry or cross. In *Mary Poppins*, when George Banks was cross, his wife said gently to him, "The trouble with you, George, is that you are out of sorts." An early Christian hymn suggests, "You can speak a gentle word, to the heart with anger stirred." The gentle response tends to soften anger, and is feminine and angelic.

The Childlike Way

Another way to respond when a man is angry, cross, or stern is with childlikeness. Basically the method is this: 1) Exaggerate by words or manner. 2) Distract his attention. 3) Change the subject. 4) Be submissive, in a childlike way. 5) Be teasingly playful. For example:

1. *My Prince*: One of my nephews is inclined to be stern and sometimes cross. His little girl has learned to tame him and have everything going her way. For example, when he is overly stern or cross with her, she puts her hands on his cheeks, looks into his face and says, "My prince, my handsome

you hear what she called me?" he asked our host. "Did you hear?"

"I found myself in the bedroom thinking, 'Great, but what now?' My husband had never in eight years of marriage apologized for being inconsiderate. Yet not minutes later he entered the bedroom, sat down beside me, and said, 'I am sorry and I didn't mean to hurt your feelings. Will you forgive me?' I'd have forgiven him anything at that moment.

"A couple of months later I received my first birthday card from my husband. It was special, not only because he remembered it, and even got the date right, but because he had selected a tiny card showing a cute little hairy beast, suitcase in hand. It said *Happy Birthday, Lovingly, your Hairy Beast*. He had actually looked for a special card.

"It is now five years later. They have been the best five years of my life. There are many things I could tell, but one highlight stands out above the rest. Our third child was born in January. It was an emergency C section. My wonderful husband, who truly can't stand sickness or pain, was with me every minute he could be. The day I left the hospital the nurses told me they, all of them, voted my husband the most loving, tender, romantic husband they had ever met. And he is!

"Our marriage isn't perfect. There are still things which cause me pain. I have a long way to go, but I know that when I am perfect he will be perfect too. My prayer is every woman can know and accept *Fascinating Womanhood*."

How to Express Childlike Anger:

1. Develop character to eliminate the ugly emotions of hate, bitterness, sarcasm, or resentments.
2. Use childlike mannerisms.
3. Acquire a list of adjectives which compliment masculinity.
4. Exaggerate his treatment of you.

Assignment

1. Make a list of adjectives which compliment masculinity.
2. Create exaggerated expressions for moments of childlike anger.

prince." This adorable childlike response disarms him. He absolutely melts.

2. *Flowers*: When my uncle is cross with his wife she changes the subject by saying, "Have you seen the flowers on the church grounds lately?" She always says the same thing, which makes it so ridiculous it amuses him and he forgets why he was cross.

3. *Babbie*: One of the best examples of a childlike response to a man's anger is in *The Little Minister* by Sir James Barrie: This is a very long quote, but it is so full of childlikeness, it is a method of teaching it:

Babbie

Babbie had tricked the little minister into helping her escape through a line of soldiers by pretending to be his wife: Gavin was furious. "It was beautiful," she exclaimed, clapping her hands merrily. "It was iniquitous," he answered, "and I, a minister." After listening to his scolding, Babbie's face changed and she became as a child. "I am very sorry," she said, as if he had caught her stealing jam. The hood had fallen back, and she looked pleadingly at him. She had the appearance of one who was entirely in his hands. . . .

"I do not understand you," Gavin said weakly. "Only a few hours ago you were a gypsy girl in a fantastic dress . . . Now you fling a cloak over your shoulders and become a fine lady. Who are you?" Babbie answered mischievously, "Perhaps it is the cloak that has bewitched me." She slipped out of it. "Ay," she said, as if surprised, "it was just the cloak that did it, for now I'm a poor ignorant little lassie again. My goodness, but clothes do make a difference to a woman." This was sheer levity, so the dignified minister walked away, but he was charmed.

Gavin looked with horror on Babbie's wild gypsy ways. When he met her at the old mill to receive the money for Nanny, he intended to reprimand her. Before she arrived he was practicing aloud what he intended to say to her: "How dared you bewitch me? In your presence I flung away the precious hours of the Sabbath; I even forgot the Sabbath . . . I am an unworthy preacher of the Word . . . Nevertheless . . . I call upon you, before we part, never to meet again, to repent

of your— . . .” and then he heard Babbie singing from a fir tree.

“Where are you?” Gavin cried in bewilderment. “I am watching you from my window so high,” answered the Egyptian; and then the minister, looking up, saw her peering at him from a fir. “How did you get up there?” he asked in amazement. “On my broomstick,” Babbie replied and sang on. “What are you doing up there?” Gavin said, wrathfully. “This is my home,” she answered. “I told you I lived in a tree.” “Come down at once,” ordered Gavin, to which the singer responded by continuing her Scottish ballad.

The next instant a snowball hit his hat. “That is for being so cross,” she explained. . . . “Why are you so nasty today, and oh, do you know you were speaking to yourself?” “You are mistaken,” said Gavin, severely. “I was speaking to you, or rather I was saying to myself what—” “What you decided to say to me?” said the delighted gypsy.

“Do you prepare your talk like sermons? I hope you have prepared something nice for me. If it is very nice, I may give you this bunch of holly.” “I don’t know that you will think it nice,” the minister answered slowly, “but my duty—” “If it is about duty,” entreated Babbie, “don’t say it. Don’t, and I will give you the berries.” She took the berries from her dress, smiling triumphantly the while like one who had discovered a cure for duty; and instead of pointing the finger of wrath at her, Gavin stood expectant.

“But no,” he said, remembering who he was and pushing the gift aside, “I will not be bribed. I must tell you—” “Now,” said the Egyptian sadly, “I see you are angry with me. Is it because I said I lived in a tree? Do forgive me for that dreadful lie.” She had gone down on her knees before he could stop her, and was gazing imploringly at him, with her hands clasped. “You are mocking me again,” said Gavin, “but I am not angry with you. Only you must understand—”

“She jumped up and put her fingers to her ears. ‘You see I can hear nothing,’ she said. ‘Listen while I tell you—’” Gavin continued. “I don’t hear a word. Why do you scold me when I have kept my promise? If I dared to take my fingers from my ears I would give you the money for Nanny. And, Mr. Dishart, I must be gone in five minutes.”

“In five minutes,” echoed Gavin, with such a dismal face

that Babbie heard the words with her eyes and dropped her hands. “Why are you in such haste?” he asked, taking the five pounds mechanically, and forgetting all that he had meant to say. “Because they require me at home,” she answered, with a sly look at her fir.

“Would you like to hear all about me?” she asked. “Do you really think me a gypsy?” Then, in the middle of the conversation she had him stand back to back to see which was the taller. “Let us measure,” she said sweetly, putting her back to his. “You are not stretching your neck, are you?” This was not the best thing to say to Gavin, for he was sensitive about his height, but it was childlike. When she could see he was offended, she was ashamed of herself and quickly changed the subject.

Then, just as she was to go she said, “I know why you are looking so troubled. You think I am to ask you the color of my eyes and you have forgotten again.” He would have answered but she checked him. “Make no pretence,” she said severely; “I know you think they are blue.” She came close to him until her face almost touched his. “Look hard at them,” she said solemnly, “and after this you may remember that they are black, black, black.” At each repetition of the word she shook her head in his face. She was adorable. He was enchanted. He would have put his arms around her but she ran away.”

Note that Babbie did not respond to Gavin’s anger by acting hurt or sullen, or by trying to correct him, or fight back. Instead she playfully distracted his attention away from his anger. She sang the Scottish ballad, told him she lived in a tree, offered to give him the holly berries, and asked him the color of her eyes. Or, on bended knees with hands clasped, she put herself at his mercy and asked forgiveness. She put her fingers in her ears so she couldn’t hear him. All of these things were childlike.

And Gavin, who was watched by his congregation from the time he arose in the morning until he went to bed at night, and who did all he could to resist his feelings for her, found her so enchanting, so essential to his happiness, that he risked his ministry for her, a ministry he had sacrificed many years to obtain. Babbie was not perfect. She made a few mistakes. But she was a superb example of character and childlikeness.

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More Childlike Ways



How to Ask for Things

Are there things you’ve wanted for a long time but still don’t have? Think for a moment. It may be something as simple as an extra shelf in the pantry, new dishes, or a silk dress. You may want to visit a friend in a distant state, take violin lessons, or join a talent club. I’m not referring to selfish whims, but things you deserve and he can afford, perhaps with a little personal sacrifice on his part. You may have tried asking for these things but he doesn’t take you seriously. Or, he says he’ll do it and then never gets around to it, or makes excuses. Or, he turns you down flat. If so, you are probably asking in the wrong way. The following are the usual ways of asking, the ways that usually fail:

The Usual Way of Asking

1. *Hints:* When you hint for something you want, does your husband respond? Or, does he usually ignore it or forget it? If he does, do you tend to interpret it as lack of love? You may even say to yourself, “If he really cared about me he would remember to do these things for me.” Is his neglect due to lack of love? Not usually. More often it is because he is too preoccupied with his own problems. Or, he may count your hints as womanly whims. Whatever the reason for his neglect, this method usually fails.

2. *Suggestions:* You might say, “Why don’t we go to the lake this summer, or wouldn’t it be nice to build a bookcase in the family room.” Such suggestions are fine if you are not

sure what you want and are seeking his opinion. If you know what you want this method doesn’t do anything to encourage a positive answer, unless he is already in the frame of mind for it. This approach is more likely to invite an opposing view.

3. *Convince Him:* You may think of all the reasons you are justified in asking for something. Then you take the matter to your husband and try to convince him, backing it up with your reasons. This method sometimes works, but it more often invites opposition. He may think of reasons you are *not* justified in having it. In addition, you appear as a *decision-making equal*, prompting him to say “no,” just to show his authority. He may be in favor of granting your request but says *no* automatically, not realizing he took a negative stand to preserve his position as the leader.

4. *Demand:* You become so frustrated trying to get what you want and deserve you resort to demanding it. When your husband feels pressure from you he may give in, but not with good feeling. Or he may flatly refuse. This may lead to an argument in which, if he wins, you are the one with bad feelings. This creates contention. Demanding your rights will not make him *want* to do things for you.

If you’ve had a difficult time getting what you want or need you may give up entirely. You may rather go without than face the ordeal of trying to get him to do things for you. The problem is, if you give up asking and go without things which mean so much, you tend to form resentments toward him. It strikes you as unfair for him to ignore simple requests when you have done a great deal for him.

Don’t give up. Important to any man-woman relationship is filling each other’s needs and desires. If he is to love you he must do things for you. Instead of giving up learn to ask in the right way so he will want to do things for you. Here is the method suggested:

The Childlike Way to Ask

Again, we copy this art from little children. How do they get what they want? They just *ask* for it, in a trusting manner. They don’t justify, explain, or try to convince you. When a little girl wants something, she approaches her parents trustingly, respecting their right to say yes or no. She will say,

"May I please?" or "Will you please?" or, "It would mean so much to me." All kindhearted parents are inclined to say yes to such a childlike request.

When you ask him for something in a trusting, childlike way you show respect for his leadership. When he senses your respect for his position, your dependency on him for all you have, he is prompted to do his utmost to fill your request. He may even jump at the chance to do things for you. *Men have often broken their necks to cater to the whims of femininity.* I am not suggesting you ask for whims, but I advise you to ask for things you need, want, and deserve, things which are important to your well-being. Your husband will love you more and you will feel more kindly toward him for heeding your requests.

What Not to Ask For

There are a few things you should not ask for. Don't ask for things which are selfish or which he can't afford. Don't ask for something which would require he neglect an important duty. Don't ask for things which would be against his judgment or principles. Don't ask for anything which would place a heavy burden on him, or a worry. As a rule, don't ask for love, tenderness, or affection. They are of value only when given voluntarily. They should be *awakened*. There may be men who respond to this but most men don't like this much aggression in a woman.

When Not to Ask

Don't ask for things when you have not been doing your part as a wife. If you have been neglectful of your homemaking, his meals, your appearance, or your sex life, it's best to not ask him for anything special until you make improvements.

The Self-Sacrificing Wife

Do you go without things you need because you think it's noble to sacrifice? For years you may have wanted something but every time the thought crosses your mind you subdue the

impulse to ask so there'll be more money for your husband and children. It sounds noble, but unfortunately it isn't good for a marriage.

During an emergency he appreciates your willingness to set aside personal needs to solve problems, but when there's no urgent reason he won't appreciate your sacrifice. You are his queen, deserving of the best he can offer. He doesn't want you to place his comforts and those of the children ahead of your important needs.

Another point is this: When you are overly self-sacrificing you rob your husband of the opportunity to serve you, and therefore to love you more. We love those we serve. You owe it to your husband and your marriage relationship to see that he does things for you. But *you must ask*. A man is not a mind reader.

Expecting Things

This is another method of asking, and although it is not childlike, it is effective for some purposes. An illustration is in the life of Abraham Lincoln. Abraham's parents, Tom and Nancy Lincoln, and their children lived for years in a little log cabin with a dirt floor. Tom was negligent and rather lazy, so he never got around to building a wooden floor, and Nancy didn't know how to get him to do it.

Then Nancy died and Tom married Sarah. She was a very fine person, but different from Nancy. When Tom brought her home to the log cabin she brought with her several wagonloads of fine furniture and home furnishings. She took one look at the dirt floor and said, "*Oh, my goodness, Tom, I couldn't think of bringing all of my nice things in here on this dirt floor. I will just leave them in the wagons and you can build me a wooden floor tomorrow.*"

Tom Lincoln did build her a wooden floor the very next day. Wasn't it sad to think poor Nancy lived all those years on a dirt floor because she didn't know how to motivate a man to action? Notice Sarah was pleasant, but *definite*, and placed a *time limit* on the task. With the furniture sitting outside, her request was urgent. When you have a similar situation of urgency, your husband may respond to this method.

Childlike Joy

In studying the joy of little children, note it takes very little to make them happy. They delight in catching a ray of sunshine, splashing in a tub of water, walking in the rain, stepping in mud puddles, picking up rocks, patting a puppy dog, or eating an ice cream cone.

A woman who can get excited over the common joys of life is bewitching to a man. A few rare women genuinely feel the joy of a summer day, a sunset, the first flowers of spring, or a full moon. They delight in going down to the bay to watch the ships come in as the ocean waves break against the pier and they feel the sea air.

Referring again to the joy of little children, when they are rewarded a pleasant surprise or promised a forthcoming good time, what happens? Their eyes sparkle with excitement or they clap their hands and jump up and down. They tend to exaggerate by saying, "*This is the prettiest or the best in the whole world.*" As parents, when we see this pleasant response we are prompted to repeat our favors.

When a man buys a woman a gift or does something special for her he appreciates a joyful response. Women who get excited over every little thing a man does for them are usually pampered and spoiled. On the other hand, women who respond with a bland *thank you*, or *oh, how nice*, or *how thoughtful of you*, do nothing to encourage a man's generosity. Even worse, some women receive favors from a man as though he *owed it to them*.

Childlike joy is not appropriate for every occasion. When a man gives a woman something of unusual value or does something for her which required considerable sacrifice, even childlike joy may not be sufficient. A deeply expressed appreciation, warm affection, or even tears of joy may be more significant.

Problems in Gift Giving

1. *Negligence*: If your husband ignores or forgets your birthday and this troubles you, do the following: First, ask yourself if you are to blame. When he gave you something in the past, did you fail to show appreciation? Did you make a

negative remark or take it back? If so, this explains his lack of interest in giving you anything.

If you are not to blame, try to be understanding. Men are known to be negligent about gift giving. They never quite know what a woman wants and tend to dislike the compulsion of giving. Some men prefer to buy something when they feel like it rather than when tradition dictates. Don't therefore, be too concerned about this negligence, or interpret it as a lack of love.

If you can't overlook his negligence, next time your birthday comes around make gift giving easier for him. You might say, "*There is something I have really been wanting.*" Make certain it is something easy to find and he can afford. Or say, "*I know you never quite know what to get me for my birthday. Would you like me to go with you to pick it out?*"

If this makes you feel better, do it. The problem is, it takes the joy out of giving and receiving. When it's your idea it tends to lose its value. It's better to live the whole of F.W. and thus prompt him to give spontaneously.

2. *When You Don't Like the Gift*: Never make the mistake of showing disappointment or criticizing the gift. On the other hand, don't be insincere and act as though you like a gift when you don't. Appreciate, not the gift, but the *giver*, or the *act of giving*. Show appreciation for his thoughtfulness. The gift is of little consequence compared to the generosity of the giver.

If it's the wrong color, try it on and ask him how you look in it. If it passes his judgment, keep it and wear it. If it's the wrong size it's OK to exchange it. Otherwise don't make the mistake of returning it, exchanging it, or putting it away and not using it. Whatever the gift, use it at least for awhile.

3. *When He Can't Afford It*: If your husband has a habit of buying you things he can't afford, don't make an unkind remark about how he should have known better. Instead, give him suggestions of inexpensive things you appreciate. Tell him you appreciate expensive gifts but appreciate other things as much.

Childlike Trust

Childlike trust is a confidence such as children have in their parents, that their parents have their best interests at heart

and will always take care of them. You show this same trust for a man when you trust in his ability to take care of you, to safely lead you, guide you, protect you, and provide for you, and that he has the capabilities of doing so. You show lack of trust when you doubt his ability to take care of you.

You should not, for example, tell him what to do or how to do it. Nothing so irritates a man as when his wife gives him directions or instructions in something he is supposed to know more about than she does. I remember being in the company of a man and his wife who were showing us the city in which they lived. She was at his elbow telling him every turn to make. When a man is driving, never make the mistake of telling him where to turn, unless he asks. It's better to let him make a mistake and have to backtrack, than to doubt his common judgment. This is especially irritating in something as simple as finding his way around in life.

You show lack of trust when you doubt his ability to solve his problems such as finding his way out of financial difficulty or reaching a challenging goal. Don't give him too many suggestions about how to succeed. It's better to turn your back on the problem, with a childlike trust that one way or another he will be victorious. However, don't give him the impression you think it will be easy, but do help him feel he has the power to win.

When you trust him, don't expect perfection. Not everything he does will turn out well. You trust, not so much the outcome of events, as *the intent of his heart*. Try to believe he means well, acts on his best judgment, and intends to take care of you. He is likely doing a better job than you could.

You may wonder, how can you trust a man who has made foolish mistakes? This may seem difficult but remember, we all make mistakes and learn by them. Mistakes of the past sharpen judgment for the future. But even a man who has learned good judgment is not free of mistakes. It's a continual part of life for all of us. But, move ahead with a childlike trust, willing to risk time, comforts, and security to achieve worthy goals. This is how the greatest objectives in life have been reached.

What will trust do? When you put your trust in a man, you impel him to measure up to your expectations of him.

Her husband looked up in surprised wonder and amusement. How much better this was than if she had complained, accused him of selfishness, or even worse, said nothing and held a grudge. But please note: In some instances you should encourage your husband's plans, with eagerness and excitement. This would depend on your situation. In this case the trip was beyond their means, and her outspoken words brought him back to reality and kept him from making a mistake.

Changefulness

You are more interesting when you are changeful—not the same all the time. Charles Reade states in *The Cloister and the Hearth*: "*Girls love to be coy and tender, gentle and saucy by turns.*" This adds variety to your personality, and makes you more mysterious and therefore more interesting, especially to a man. If you are unpredictable so he can't count on your mood or reaction in a situation, you are more fascinating.

Deruchette was changeful—sweet, good, childlike, birdlike, innocent, vivacious, graceful, giddy, with a dash of melancholy, the teasing playfulness of a child, an air of bewitching languor, and certain mischief in the eye.

Little children are changeful in *emotions*. Notice that, when hurt or disappointed, they run to their mothers with tears streaming down their cute little faces. When comforted with a kiss or pleasant surprise they instantly burst into a smile, with tears still wet on their cheeks. Little children hold no grudges, which is one reason their emotions are free to fluctuate.

Also observe children when they listen to bedtime stories. Their emotions fluctuate with every turn of events. When the story shows uncertainty they display anxiety. When things take a turn for the worse, their anxiety increases. When great danger appears they work themselves into quite a state of emotion. When things work out better, they express delight.

Youthful Manner

Women with a youthful manner have a zest for living, a spring in their step, a lightheartedness of spirit, an alert interest in life, and enthusiasm for the future. This is the spirit of youth.

There is nothing which so inspires a man to action as when someone puts their trust in him.

Outspokenness

Another way of being childlike is to be outspoken. This is not to imply you have an *unbridled tongue*, or speak too frankly, with little concern for the feelings of others, a common fault with adults. But, be direct in conversation, not evasive. Don't beat around the bush, make excuses, or fail to come to the point.

A little girl who has been reared by kind and loving parents of whom she is not afraid, tends to be honest and outspoken. For example, if you ask a little girl if she would like to visit a lady down the street and the child doesn't want to go, she doesn't hunt for excuses or ask to put it off until another time. She simply says, "*I don't want to.*" This is childlike.

Or if you ask her why she didn't pick up her toys as she was told, instead of making a tedious explanation she simply says, "*I forgot.*" This is childlike. However, when a child is a little afraid of his parents, he tends to lie, or put the blame on someone else. But a child who is unafraid tends to be outspoken. This is the response a man appreciates in a woman.

If you are shopping with your husband for such things as furniture, clothes, or even a house, and he suggests you buy something you don't like, it isn't necessary to go into a long explanation to justify your objections. Be honest and outspoken and say, "*Honey, I just don't think I want this one.*" This comment not only settles matters but is appreciated and less likely to insult his tastes than an elaboration of your objections. Of course, it's important to please your husband, especially in home decor, but not at your expense. It is important to please both of you.

I knew a lady who had this charm of outspokenness. On the occasion I remember, her husband and several other men had just announced plans to sail down the Colorado River on a raft. The lady, thinking the trip extravagant, especially since she had been going without things she needed, said in a childlike voice, "*But what about me! I need some new cotton dresses and some high-heeled shoes.*"

It can, however, be retained into old age. I recently had a conversation with a lady who said, "*You know, I am seventy-four years old but I still feel young and kind of cute.*" This youthfulness of manner is part of being fascinating, and makes you forever attractive.

To be youthful in manner, eliminate any tendency to matronliness, especially in your walk. Older women tend to slant forward, drop their chin, round their shoulders, walk with legs apart and wobble the upper part of their body. This is the walk of age. To appear youthful do the opposite. Also avoid a forlorn look in the face which stems from a foreboding about the future or being bored with life, as these are symptoms of age.

Youthful Appearance

To achieve a youthful appearance, *avoid matronly styles*, or styles, worn by older women. Also avoid styles which are *out-of-date*—dresses, hairstyles, shoes, and makeup that were in vogue ten or more years ago. There's a tendency for women to hang on to styles that were popular when they were young. To look youthful, avoid doing this.

To avoid a matronly appearance, refuse to let yourself get overweight, even ten pounds over. There's nothing which will more quickly destroy the appearance of youth as a chunky figure. It's almost impossible to appear youthful in either manner or appearance if you are overweight.

To accentuate youthfulness in dress, visit young girls' shops. You may not end up buying your clothes there but you'll get the picture of what's in fashion. There's a tendency for young women to go for *mod*, or *fad* styles. Avoid these completely, lest you look ridiculous. But young women do keep up with the latest style. In fact, being style-conscious is typical of youth. Let their styles influence you, just a little.

If you want to create some youthful styles of your own, especially housedresses, visit a little girls' shop. There you will see buttons and bows, checks, plaids, pleats, stripes, jumpers, daisies, and even satin, lace, and velvet. All of their clothes are pretty.

Also be conscious of hairstyles. Avoid styles you wore ten years ago which are now out-of-date. You need not go to extremes but do lean toward current or youthful hairstyles.

Little girls wear ribbons, bows, barrettes, and flowers in their hair. They wear cute little hats.

If you think it ridiculous for a grown woman to wear youthful styles, wear them in your own home and let your husband be the judge. He may not want you to wear them in public, but will probably like them at home or for informal occasions.

I Wore a Childlike Hat

I received a letter from a lady who had not paid much attention to childlikeness until she had the following experience:

"This is a little thing but my husband was recalling a hat I wore eight years ago when I went fishing with him. He said it was like a hat I had on when I was a very little girl. I had no idea he noticed either one. Through F.W. I can understand that he liked it because it was girlish."

Childishness

Childlikeness should not be confused with *childishness*, which is a negative quality. To be childish is to copy the faults of children, whereas to be childlike is to copy their virtues. Childish traits in children are self-centeredness, lack of responsibility for their actions, and expecting too much of others. Those who retain childish traits in adult life fret when they don't get their way, blame others for their unfortunate circumstances, fail to acknowledge their mistakes and failures, and make unreasonable demands of their associates.

When we were young we expected much from our parents and thought they could do almost anything. To project this unrealistic thought into adult life is to expect too much from our associates and is therefore childish. Childishness in a grown woman is very *unattractive*.

Conclusions

There are a few women who resist the idea of acting childlike, who consider it an insult to their good sense for anyone to expect them to act the part of a little girl. They insist

on believing that really sensible men, the kind they admire, would be repulsed instead of attracted to such a childlike creature. The only way to prove to yourself if childlikeness is charming to men is to try it in your own life to test your husband's reaction.

Even when women agree a childlike woman is the most attractive, many mistakenly assume that for themselves the acting of such a part is impossible. Be assured that every woman can become childlike, for we all have this trait in our nature. It's part of being a woman. Remember, it was not long ago you were a little girl, when these traits were natural to you. You can recapture this manner and charm and make it part of your personality.

When a woman matures there's a marked tendency for her to lose this childlike trait, especially when she gets married. She somehow feels that now she must grow up, without realizing that men never want women to grow up completely. Truly fascinating women always remain somewhat little girls, regardless of age.

Childlike Ways:

1. Childlike Anger (When you are angry)
2. Childlike Response (When he is angry or cross)
3. Asking for Things
4. Childlike Joy
5. Childlike Trust
6. Outspokenness
7. Changefulness
8. Youthful Manner
9. Youthful Appearance

Assignment:

1. Think of something you really want, and ask your husband for it in a childlike way.
2. Make a youthful housedress.