

“A worthy wife is a crown for her husband, but a disgraceful woman is like cancer in his bones.”

Proverbs 12:4 NLT

lectio // Proverbs 12:1-5

My best asset isn't me at all, it's my wife. It's a very long and romantic story of how my wife and I met, dated and fell in love, so I'll the highlights. We were 15 years old, my mom wanted me to have better friends so she signed me up to go to a youth winter camp. I was not thrilled to go. Over a president's holiday weekend in February, I went to camp. There I not only met Jesus, I also met my future wife. I had no idea she was the Pastor's daughter. I was kind of a street urchin, and she was a princess in her church. We dated for five years (I was reluctant to commit because of my past). We attended a private Bible college together, and got married at 21 years old. Our first "job" out of college was ministry at a church. We eventually had 3 children and have been married for 37 years. However, my wife was instrumental in maturing me and encouraging my growth as a man, a husband, then a father well into my late 30's. I didn't know how to lead myself or my family, and she was patient while I learned. Almost every couple I have counseled and performed their marriage ceremony have experienced similar. How many times have you seen an amazing woman, in a monogamous, committed, relationship have this maturing, socializing effect on a guy? And later and equally, a quality guy has that same effect on his wife? Our spiritual, personal growth and commitment to God, curiosity, fun and life-long learning creates an environment to lead a long-lasting relationship. Without my wife and our decision to love God and each other means that I get to wear a beautiful crown of gold, rather than a hoody of trash and shame.

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Dad,

I am so very thankful for my wife. I am so thankful you brought us together and that we have each other to do life. I cannot imagine who I would be or where I would be with out her. You have provided both of us a crown of love and commitment to remind us of your blessing and goodness. Help us both to continue to pursue YOU as our first love, and let everything else fall into proper priority after that.

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rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root