



## CHAPTER 19

### Little Things Count

By Paul D. Refior  
("Rafe")

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## **It's Your CHOICE – Little Things Count**

### **LITTLE THINGS COUNT**

Fix your mind on the days when you were dating your spouse. When you were getting ready to be with your beloved you made sure that you looked your very best. That person you were seeking to impress, attract and look your very best for, is the same person who is now your spouse. Do not make the terrible, yet common, mistake of “letting things go” after you are married. Instead work even harder to look your best for your spouse.

We all know that there are times when our spouse will see us looking anything but our best. But that should be the exception rather than the norm. The businessman who believes it is important to dress sharp and look neat for business, should consider it even more important to look attractive for his wife. A woman who wants to have her hair, makeup and dress perfect for a social function to be attended by people she considers important, should even more so want to be stunning and beautiful for her husband.

When a person ceases to care about looking his or her best for his or her spouse, is when the person actually does become less appealing, less attractive, and less stimulating visually. That can set the stage for the husband and wife to take each other for granted.

When you were dating it was not unusual for there to be regular gestures of affection such as love letters and love notes, a wink of the eye, flowers, little presents, and the like. Remember how you carefully thought out such overt gestures of affection and how much you enjoyed giving and doing those things. You also remember how happy it made you feel when you received them and how it gave you a special fresh sense of being loved and appreciated. Those little gestures were sweet and wonderful and they definitely had a positive impact on the growing relationship.

During your courtship you were careful to be very, very polite. The man did everything he could to be a perfect gentleman. The woman was so gracious and polite. That must not stop during marriage. Because your spouse is the most important person in your life, you should maintain the highest degree of courtesy toward one another throughout your lifetime. Please ignore the rubbish that comes from those who want to trash and demean good traditions and practices. The husband is not “patronizing” his wife when he opens the door for her, helps her with her chair, walks curbside, or stands when she enters the room. Some misguided people look for evil motives or agendas behind such tender courtesies. Get your marching orders from the Word of God rather than from special interest groups, the “politically correct” people, or the media. Be sure to remember to say “please” and “thank you,” “excuse me” or “pardon me” to your spouse. Be quick to verbalize an apology if it is due. It seems that men have a harder time than women in this area. When your spouse does do something for you that is really nice, notice it and show that you are genuinely appreciative. Respond with an immediate and sincere smile and a “thank you.” Your spouse will know the difference between a demand for something, on the one hand, and a polite petition, on the other hand. Courtesy shows respect and you need to do everything you can to show and declare your respect for your spouse.

Picture how you would act if one of the most celebrated and famous individuals in the world would be in the room with you, or in the car with you. You would most certainly be conscious

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of your appearance, speech, and conduct. You would be very conscious of extending every courtesy to that V.I.P. Mark this very carefully. **Your spouse IS MORE IMPORTANT** than that famous or important person. Your spouse is the one person among all of the billions of living people on the face of this planet who is united with you for life by God's divine orchestration. Your spouse is the one with whom you share the absolutely unique and mystical relationship of marriage.

The longer you are married to your spouse the better equipped you will be to do even more creative and delightful little things for your spouse. Love notes, surprises, planning special events, flowers, presents, and other gestures of love and affection really are not "little things" after all – they are huge. These are the types of things that will not and cannot happen without conscious and affirmative planning and action. **CHOOSE** to do these things for your spouse. When your spouse does these things for you make sure that you let your spouse know how much you appreciate those gestures and how much it thrills you. Make a big deal about it. You will both greatly enjoy these gestures, gifts and courtesies. Please give thought to what you are going to do today to express your love, devotion and affection to your spouse. Then **CHOOSE** to do it