

**A POEM FOR TOM AND REBECCA PROPTS  
ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR WEDDING  
11 December 2010  
By Rebecca's Grandparents  
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**Today we all are gathered here  
to celebrate the event of the year.**

**With God's help and some experience too,  
we have constructed this poem for you.**

**Would you allow us to share some of what we have learned?  
If so, we hope it would help you not to get burned.**

**The Bible says that fools don't take wisdom to heart,  
but we believe that you will take advice, because both of you are smart**

**God made man and woman with different features.  
Their needs are different, and they don't understand each other.**

**What might God have been thinking when he made all these creatures?  
Perhaps he was saying: "You need to serve one another.**

**Don't be so selfish, don't be so strong-willed,  
And I will see to it that your desires be fulfilled."**

**You may not always like your mate  
But showing kindness and respect can overcome this fate.**

**Don't magnify your partner's faults to anyone;  
don't gripe about them and don't moan.**

**Don't run home to Mama and Daddy when you have problems with your mate.  
If you do that, you will diminish your mate in their eyes, and that won't be a profitable fate.**

**Be patient with one another, always consider what the Bible has to say.  
Be quick to forgive when your partner makes mistakes. Try to do this every day.**

**No one is perfect; everyone has faults of their own,  
to compensate for our shortcomings, God sent his Son.**

**Don't hold grudges, blow up, pout, withdraw or withhold love.  
Be kind to each other, try to see the other's side, and with your attitude honor our Father above.**

**He will then honor you, and he will make things right.  
It's not worth it to be angry, it's not worth a fight.**

Man thinks in boxes, one project at a time is all he can do.  
Let him finish what he's doing, don't bother him until he's through.

Women's thoughts are like a plateful of spaghetti,  
all jumbled up, they go from here to there.

Women solve problems by talking about them,  
and if men listen they show that they care.

A man, on the other hand, doesn't talk about his problems.  
He tries to solve them in his problem-solving box, all by himself,

and if he can't solve them, he may just take them  
and put them on a convenient shelf.

Women have a tendency to repeat themselves if they are not heard;  
Men call it nagging, women say: "That's absurd."

For women to be heard and to get their needs met, we would say:  
"Your chances of getting your problem solved are greater, if you say things the right way."

Remember, men want to be spoken to in a respectful tone,  
not like you speak to a child, so do your best.

Men are problem solvers and if they can,  
will solve your problem when you make a respectful request.

To the man we say, when a woman nags, she wants to be heard, so don't act like she is not there.  
Try to understand her, listen to her with your heart, she'll be thankful and know that you care.

At the top of the list of the needs of man  
is to respect him and praise him whenever you can.

A little encouragement will go a long way, and it will carry him through.  
That project he is doing, he is doing for you; men show their love by what they do.

Man hates it when he is spoken to in a commanding tone of voice,  
and when he is treated like a kid,

but when you give him a lot of honest praise he will thrive and do his best,  
and he will love you for it.

Man wants to be a woman's hero, admired and faultless in her eyes,  
A wise woman sees his good points and is positive when he tries.

If you have a project for your man, tell him specifically what you would like him to do.  
Don't complain and don't criticize him when he has done the job and he is through.

You can tell a man what to do, or how to do it, not both,  
To this he will rebel.

He may tell you to do it yourself the next time,  
If you know what to do and how to do it so well.

Romance and affection are at the top of her list.  
Don't leave the house or go to sleep without her being kissed.

A woman likes compliments for the way she dresses, her pretty hair, for how good she looks,  
for serving her man, washing his clothes, cleaning the house and for the meals she cooks.

He should tell her often that he loves her a lot,  
He wouldn't want to do without her, she is God's gift to him,

And if he treats her special, and they work together,  
the chances that she will leave him will be very slim.

Don't forget birthdays, anniversaries and such.  
Get her a card, a gift, flowers, it doesn't have to be much.

Find out what she likes, ask her what she doesn't like to do;  
Maybe she just wants a night out, a romantic evening with you.

Good conversations with her man are another important need in her life.  
If he realizes that and they can talk, he will have done much to create harmony and avoid strife.

Since men always try to solve a woman's problem ,  
when she just wants to talk and pour out her heart,

learn, oh man, that listening solves her problem.  
She doesn't want advice; listening attentively is very smart.

Developing joint interests is very important in a marriage.  
She wants a nicely furnished house, he wants a four wheel carriage.

He wants her to be interested in what he is doing,  
sports, hobbies or work projects are important in his mind.

Don't tell him: "This doesn't interest me," instead ask him questions,  
he will love you for it, and his interest you will find.

She wants him to care about the family and the home, the children,  
and about what's going on there;

If he understands that he will find that she feels loved and cared for,  
and dissatisfaction on her side will be rare.

He needs his home to be a warm place, he wants to be greeted at the door.  
He needs good food – men like to eat - he doesn't need a whole lot more.

He needs to have an attractive mate, one who cares about the way she looks.  
He wants other men to gawk and say: "Wow"! I wonder how she cooks"?

She needs financial security, and this is what she wants to see:  
"He takes responsibility for our family, he can take care of me."

She needs a man who doesn't lie to her, is open with finances, and all his affairs; that is a must.  
She needs honesty, men need it too, but she needs it even more, a good marriage is built on trust.

He doesn't like to admit when he makes mistakes, doesn't know something or can't measure up.  
He is afraid that he'll lose face and her respect for him will come to a stop.

She can deal better with his faults if he admits them, just the opposite of what he thinks is true.  
An honest relationship is more important to a woman, than a cover-up that she can see through.

Love, acceptance and forgiveness is a necessary virtue.  
A home must be a safe place for both of you.

He won't reveal his inside  
Until he knows you are on his side.

Don't bring up past mistakes and talk about how things should have been handled differently  
and what would have been the best.

This makes your partner feel inadequate,  
and kills his love for you. Just let it rest.

These are just a few things we have learned in life,  
They have helped us to love more and to avoid strife.

If you serve God together, pray, live by his word and practice showing love,  
You will live peaceful and prosperous lives and blessings will come from the Father above.