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The Law Office of David E. Gordon

**Board-Certified Civil Trial Specialist**

Less than 2% of Tennessee lawyers are board-certified.

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## Understand the Leadership Style Your Wife Needs

In my monthly newsletters, I have been discussing lessons from the book that my wife and I co-authored, *Husband School, Where Men Learn the Secrets of Making Wives Happy*. As I repeatedly say, marriage is not an unpredictable, chaotic situation. You can learn the skills and patterns to promote harmony, friendship, and affection in marriage. Don't assume that the mind of your wife is unknowable. The mind of a woman has been dissected, analyzed, and categorized. It is neither impossible nor difficult to understand.

The lesson this month is called *Understand the Leadership Style Your Wife Needs*. The leadership style that your wife needs can be summed up simply - sacrificial/servant leadership. This unusual husband cares about his wife's welfare as much as *his own*. When a wife is loved like this, she will not have as much difficulty submitting to the Biblical principles of marriage. Husbands earn the right to lead by humbly serving their wife.

A wife will gladly follow a husband whom she knows puts her needs ahead of his own.

The best husbands know that the true key to earn leadership is to demonstrate humility. Humility has been described as strength under control. It shows up in a husband's ability to overlook, forgive, not keep a record of wrong, and to return a blessing for insult. This mature behavior is undoubtedly rare, but can be cultivated. It takes practice. Men often say they will develop this leadership style when their wife gets her act together; but wise husbands know that great leaders always go first. One husband I know went without air conditioning in his car throughout the summer because finances were tight and his wife needed the money for household help due to their many little children. Wives remember such displays of unselfishness.

Remember, wise husbands are as considerate of their wife's dreams, hopes, goals, and comfort as they are their own. Wives adore husbands who lead the family with a sacrificial/servant style.

Next month: ***Understand How Anger and Harsh Words Affect Your Wife***

If you would like a free copy of *Husband School*, you can get one at my office. In addition, they are available on Amazon.

# Baby powder sometimes deadly

The New York Times reported that Johnson & Johnson was ordered in July of this year to pay \$4.69 billion to 22 women and their families who had claimed that asbestos in the company's talcum powder products caused them to develop ovarian cancer.

A jury in a Missouri circuit court awarded \$4.14 billion in punitive damages and \$550 million in compensatory damages to the women, who had accused the company of failing to warn them about cancer risks associated with its baby and body powders.

Johnson & Johnson, the maker of Johnson's Baby Powder, said it was "deeply disappointed" in the verdict and planned to appeal. The company is facing more than 9,000 plaintiffs in cases involving body powders with talc, according to a regulatory document filed this spring.

After a six-week trial, the jury in St. Louis deliberated over the compensatory damages for eight hours but decided on the punitive damages in roughly 45 minutes, said Mark Lanier, a lawyer for the women.

Six of the women have died; almost all of the rest, along with friends and relatives, were in the courtroom on Thursday. One of the plaintiffs is undergoing chemotherapy and was too ill to attend, Mr. Lanier said.

"There were people crying, people hugging," he added. "It's been quite an emotional scene."

Mr. Lanier said Johnson & Johnson had spent 40 years covering up evidence of asbestos in some of its talcum-based products and should mark those products with warning labels or focus on powders made with cornstarch.



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*The greatest professional compliment we can receive is when one of our clients refers a friend, family member, or neighbor to our firm. **Thank you!** We appreciate your confidence in us.*



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## Why are there no seat belts on school buses?

Have you ever wondered why school buses don't have seat belts? After all, seat belts are proven life savers. Why wouldn't we want our kids strapped in safely while travelling to and from school?

School buses are incredibly safe. Children are 70 times more likely to arrive safely at school when travelling by bus versus travelling by car. The safety comes from the fact that school buses are the most-regulated vehicles on the road. School buses are designed to be highly visible and include safety features such as flashing red lights, cross-view mirrors, and stop-sign arms. They also include protective seating, high crush standards, and rollover protection features.

As for seat belts, school buses are designed with a different kind of restraint system that works very well. Large school buses distribute crash forces differently because of their size. Because of this, passengers are exposed to much less force in the case of a crash than those in smaller vehicles. Instead of seat belts, large buses use compartmentalization to secure passengers. By using strong, closely-spaced seats that have energy-absorbing seat backs, buses protect children without requiring them to buckle up. Small school buses (with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less) on the other hand, require seat belts since they are not as large and able to protect passengers well without.

Next time you watch your child climb aboard the school bus, you can feel secure knowing that even without seat belts, your little ones are protected.

