



Framework Expectations

Adapted from “Flip this House” series by Sam Rijfkogel

Before framing a house, much preparation has taken place. The assumption before the framing goes into place is that the necessary components have been properly designed and properly installed.

Not all wood is the same, and since most house frames use wood as the primary component, it's important to learn more about this versatile material. Primarily most of the lumber that's available through either lumber yards or home centers today is graded one or better, two or better or three or better.

Number-one graded lumber is the best wood you can get for your home. The quality of the wood decreases as the grade number increases, but keep in mind that better grade lumber will cost more. Also know that number-one grade wood will have fewer knots and less shrinkage. Don't cut costs on framing lumber. Using a lower-grade lumber for your frame can cause problems later. Use the best grade lumber you can afford.

More often today in home building, engineered lumber is being used in the framing process. There have been many advantages in the adaptation of engineered lumber, and it allows contractors to build a more dynamic house type than they were able to build in the past. Engineered lumber is typically a composite of both lumber byproducts and engineered woods applied together for various uses. They can be used for floor joists in stead of solid dimensional lumber, and they aren't as impacted by the size and growth of trees. This composite lumber comes in forms of beams, and sometimes floor joists will be engineered lumber in the form of wooden I-beams.

Once the lumber has been purchased, the framing can begin, and it starts with the construction process — the foundation. Typically, a house is started from the foundation up. After the foundation is poured, a sill (like a pressure-treated material) is set on top of the foundation. This basically runs the perimeter of the house. A house frame for a single-story home will be made up of a sill, joists and studs. There are three basic elements that are joined together to form the skeleton on which the rest of the home will eventually rest:

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The *sill plate* is the first portion of framing that sits right on top of the concrete. That's the part that needs to be drilled for anchor bolts, and it attaches to the concrete foundation. The sill plate on the concrete is usually a pressure treated piece of wood that prevents rot, bug infestation and water damage.

Once the sill plates have been anchored to the foundation, then you begin to lay out the studs. Studs are what the vertical walls are — the normal walls of the house that are spaced to accommodate windows and doors, where joists sit on top of plates that are on top of the studs.

If you're framing a floor or ceiling, you'll need horizontal pieces called joists in your house frame. A joist is a horizontal member that sits on top of walls and supports floors or roofing.

Now that you're at the framing stage, more and more people will be working on your home, and keeping up with everything is a challenge. Meeting with your builder, architect and sub-contractors on a regular basis can help stay on top of things.¹

Before one can build a healthy home, a proper foundation and frame must be in place. Unlike dealing with brick and mortar, relationships come with a variety of expectations. In a relationship, God and His Word must be part of the foundation.

¹ "Components of a House Frame," DIY Network, 2009, <http://www.diynetwork.com/how-to/rooms-and-spaces/exterior/components-of-a-house-frame> (accessed July 6, 2017).

COURAGE

C1: If you are married, reflect on when you were first married. What were the expectations you had your spouse had? If you are not married, what expectations do you have for a spouse?

C2: A husband and wife's expectations are different and may cause conflict. It has been said that wives have several basic expectations. They include help (with the children, chores, and everyday challenges), conversation, consideration, and appreciation. On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on how well you meet these basic expectations. Write out a plan to improve in each of these expectations.

C3: Read and answer the following.

Ephesians 5:25–26 (ESV) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.

- From these verses, what role should a husband play in the marriage relationship?
- Write down three ways you can demonstrate to your spouse the same love Christ showed the Church by giving Himself for the Church.

STRENGTH

S1: Read and answer the following.

Colossians 3:19 (ESV)

- From this verse, what is one expectation God has for your family.
- What does “love your wife” look like to you?

S2: When Paul wrote Colossians, men had no obligations to their wives. Husbands did as they pleased. Responsibility in the home was a foreign concept to them.

- Look up the word “love” in a Bible dictionary. What are three different meanings of the word love?
- Describe three ways you can choose to love your spouse and your children.

S3: One common complaint expressed during counseling from wives about their husbands is “He won’t lead.”

- What does loving leadership look like?
- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on how well you lead in the following areas:
 - Spiritual Matters
 - Children

- Finances
- Romance
- Write out a plan to improve in these four areas.

S4: Read and answer the following.

Colossians 3:19 (ESV)

- One translation uses the word “bitter” instead of the word “harsh.” Look up the word “bitter” in a Bible dictionary. What does the word mean?
- What is it that makes you impatient, frustrated, or ready to throw in the towel?

S5: In the next thirty days, find three men with which to share this lesson. What did you glean from the conversations?

ENDURANCE

E1: Read and answer the following.

1 Peter 3:7 (ESV)

- From this verse, what are two things a husband needs to do for his wife?
- From this verse, why is it important to do these two things?
- If you are married, on a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very much and 4 being not very much, rate yourself on how well you understand and honor your wife. Write out a plan to improve in these two areas.

E2: One of the most effective ways to raise godly children is for your children to watch you love your wife the way Christ unconditionally loved His church. Read and answer the following.

Ephesians 5:25 (ESV)

- If you are married, on a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very much and 4 being not very much, rate your level of love for your spouse. Write out a plan to improve.
- How can you forget about your own expectations about your wife and focus on God's expectations from you?

E3: Write down three loving things you can do for your wife. If you are married, do those things each week for the next eight weeks. After each week of doing these things, what was her reaction? How did her reaction make you feel?

E4: In the next thirty days, meet with three men with which to discuss this lesson. What did you glean from them?