HOW TO BE A PROVIDER ~IN YOUR 20S~

A practical guide to showing up with resources, care, and shared responsibility—without measuring your worth by a paycheck.

THE BIG IDEA

Being a provider today can mean contributing money, time, skills, emotional steadiness, or practical help. The goal is dependable support, not one person carrying every responsibility.

The problem is, this is an accomplishment that is assumed to be on in your later years. But you don't want to wait. You want your marriage to start right, or get back on the right foot. If that's you, I want to first off encourage you by saying - it's possible. I did it in 2 years at 22. Let me share with you what I know!

QUICK FACTS

Providing is a practice, not a personality.

Declaring intentions reduces pressure.

Consistency beats intensity.

STEP ONE: BE THE MAN WHO CAN

Most people hear "provider" and immediately think finances. Finances matter, but they aren't the first piece. You first need to become the provider as a man, for two reasons:
1) by becoming the man, the finances have no other choice but to catch up to your character
2) when the finances catch up, you will have the frame to maintain the respect you've built

1 · Drop the story that it's impossible

The vast majority of men (73% approximately) split bills. In other words, only the minority of men reach provider-status. But that 27% exists, because they want it. If you want it, you first need to tell yourself that it is possible. This is the most simple step!

2 · Understand what a provider is

It's not just about cash flow, title, and income. When she says she wants a provider, she is asking for a man who can lead. A man who has direction. And a man who is willing to sacrifice his own comforts for her and her peace.

3 · Visualize the man you must become.

Truthfully, this is the hardest. Because you can't become someone, or improve in some area, if you can't visualize it. But for most of us, we don't have the picture of a provider in his 20s, it's rare!

So you'll need to get silent, and exercise your ability to picture what life would look like with you as a provider. What are the benefits? How do you act? How does she?!

4 · Live it, small

The most counterproductive thing, you might think, is to act slowly. You want it now, you want to retire her FAST. I get it, I've been there. But the behavior multiplies the result. So over-exaggerate the actions, virtues, and traits you observe in step 3.

5 · Lead, Lead, Lead

Provision is leadership. Go back to step 2 for more on that. You have to practice leadership:

- leadership of self
- leadership in hard conversations
- leadership in career growth
- leadership in self-starting
- leadership in skill development

6 · Let provision follow the man

When you become "the man who CAN provide" (which you likely are not right now, which is fine!), the money will follow. The promotions will follow. The side hustle will be disciplined enough to profit. The savings will grow. The investments will compound.

Lead with the man who can, and you will become the man who provides.

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." - Ephesians 5:25 (NIV)

EDITORIAL NOTE · THIS IS MY PERSONAL CONVICTION!

STEP TWO: BE THE MAN WHO PROVIDES

Now we can consider the money, the part you probably came for. There are five phases in provision, you are most likely at phase one. Which means, you have room to grow!

Phase/Name	Qualification	Benefit
Phase I: Starting Provider	You both work for expenses, but you know the man you need to be.	Recognizing that you are called for more is seriously the hardest hurdle to overcome. The mindset that you want more, growth, can be developed to do wonders.
Phase II: Steady Provider	Your income covers both of your essentials (rent, food, occasional dates)	Her need to work, or stress about pitching in her 50%, dissolves, and her money can go towards leisures.
Phase III: Choice Provider	Your income covers everything (rent, food, travel, insurance, leisures, gas, etc.)	At this point, she can work for leisure, as a hobby or passion. Maybe she starts that side hustle you both wish she had time/energy for.
Phase IV: Sole Provider	One income. Savings, and all the above. But she stays home & home builds.	This is the most significant achievement thus far. She steps into her feminine more, creates, nurtures, cooks/cleans (if that's your thing). But most importantly, is able to multiply that of what you provide.
Phase V: Free Provider	Your investments, and what you've built, passively pays for your life. Debt paid off (including home) with considerable cash flow you live off.	You get your time back. You get to be present with your kids. You get to be present with her. You have left your impact on the world, it's time to leave that impact on your legacy (your family). Presence.

START THIS WEEK

READY TO START?

Here's where I step in. This is just the guide. There's so much more to it. I know that because I lived, and am living, it. I was 22. She told me she wanted me to be her provider, but I didn't think it was possible. In two years, I self taught, and self-proved, it was possible. You can do it too, it is more than possible.

I have a 21-Day course that specializes in taking you from Phase 1 (or 0!) and bringing you into Phase 2 Provision: Steady Provider. If you are interested, even slightly, on what that looks like for you, book a FREE call with me. It's only 15 minutes, but we get to the good stuff right away and find out if you're a fit for the course. And if you don't think it's for you, there's no pressure. I produce content and material for all walks of life, centered around being the provider man she wants. I'm ready to be your catalyst for making that dream happen!

- Cole Gorham, *Founder of The Architect Programs*