

SOJOURNERS AND EXILES

A JOURNEY THROUGH FIRST PETER

GOD'S STANDARD FOR HUSBANDS

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1 Peter 3:7

⁷ Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

SUMMARY

We continue our study of God's ideal standards for godly marriages. Godly wives submit to their own husbands. God husbands lay their lives down for their wives in love and honor. God's standard is directly opposed to our default wiring. To meet His standard, we must devote ourselves first to the Lord and then to our spouse. We have the opportunity to deepen love and honor in our marriages. Let's take it.

LIVE WITH YOUR WIFE IN AN UNDERSTANDING WAY

Grudem, W. A. (1988). 1 Peter: an introduction and commentary (Vol. 17, p. 151).

“The ‘knowledge’ Peter intends here may include any knowledge that would be beneficial to the husband-wife relationship: knowledge of God’s purposes and principles for marriage; knowledge of the wife’s desires, goals, and frustrations; knowledge of her strengths and weaknesses in the physical, emotional and spiritual realms; etc...yet such knowledge can only be gained through regular study of God’s Word and regular, unhurried times of private fellowship.”

I. Understand Your King

1 Peter 2:21-25

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Ephesians 5:25-27

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

II. Understand Your Wife

III. Understand Yourself

SHOW HONOR TO YOUR WIFE

Grudem, W. A. (1988). 1 Peter: an introduction and commentary (Vol. 17, p. 151)

“In this case such honour ought to include kind and affirming words both privately and in public, and high priority in choices regarding the use of one’s time and money. (The NIV’s ‘treat them with respect’ is too weak—one can treat someone with detached, formal ‘respect’ and yet give no special honour to the person at all.)”

I. Honor Her In Public

Proverbs 31:29

²⁹ Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.

I. Honor Her In Private

Grudem, W. A. (1988). 1 Peter: an introduction and commentary (Vol. 17. p. 151)

“In this case such honour ought to include kind and affirming words both privately and in public, and high priority in choices regarding the use of one’s time and money. (The NIV’s ‘treat them with respect’ is too weak—one can treat someone with detached, formal ‘respect’ and yet give no special honour to the person at all.)”

RECEIVE GOD’S REWARD

CHARGE: FILL HER HEART AND MIND WITH LOVE AND HONOR.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one piece of advice about marriage that has stuck with you?
2. In 1 Peter 3:7, what do you think Peter means when he tells husbands to “live with your wives in an understanding way”?
3. What are some practical ways a husband can grow in understanding his wife’s experiences, emotions, and needs?
4. Peter says to show honor to the wife as “the weaker vessel”; what do you think Peter is communicating with that phrase, and what do you think he is not communicating?
5. What is the difference between showing respect and showing honor?
6. Why do you think Peter warns that a husband’s treatment of his wife can hinder his prayers?
7. How does the command for husbands to love their wives in Ephesians 5:25–33 help clarify what it looks like to honor and care for a wife as described in 1 Peter 3:7?
8. If a husband wanted to begin obeying 1 Peter 3:7 more faithfully this week, what specific actions or attitudes might need to change?
9. What grabbed your attention the most from the passage and/or sermon?

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