

**1st Peter 3: 1-7; “Giving Honor to the Wife & Mother”, Presented in
the Adult Sunday School Class by Pastor Paul Rendall
on Mother’s Day, May 13th, 2018.**

1st Peter 3: 1-7 – “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

1. Overview of Honoring the Wife and Mother

Verse 7 tells us that husbands are to dwell with their wives in an understanding way. They are to give honor to the wife as the weaker vessel, and because the husband and the wife are heirs together of the grace of life. If this honor is given by the husband, then Peter says here that their prayers will not be hindered. This is something which every husband ought to strive for, and he ought to give instructions to all of his children to honor their mother as well. To give honor to the wife and mother in a household, because she is the weaker vessel, means that even though she may be weaker physically than the man, and even though she was not created to be the head of the household, or the pastor or teacher in the church, that she should nevertheless be honored because of the fact that God has created her to become, by His conveying to her the grace of Christ, a beautiful crown jewel in the household. She is by His designation designed to be held in high regard; the person who is to most highly prized, because God has appointed her to this honored position of wife and mother. He has given her this this honored position in the family by bestowing upon her, Himself, the common grace of life in all of the natural gifts that He gives to her. And He builds spiritual character and beauty into her life by and spiritual gifts that she has. And He Himself is building her character as a Christian, by His mighty grace.

What I want to do at this time is to set before you the 4 reasons that are listed here as to why the godly wife and mother is to be honored.

1st – She is to be honored because of her submissive spirit.

Now, we must ask ourselves the question – What does it mean to be submissive in the context of verse 1? I believe that it means that the wife and mother consciously places herself under the headship and God-given authority of her husband, trusting that God will instruct and lead and guide him into the truth of His will as it is in the Bible. She knows from verses like these, that this is God’s will for her. And she knows that her submission is something that God will greatly bless to the welfare and well-being of the whole household if she respects him and follows his lead when it is Biblical and godly.

Look over at Ephesians chapter 5, verses 22-24.

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.” “For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.” “Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.”

Here we see that the husband has been appointed by God to be the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church. This gives us a great indication of what the husband’s honor to his wife is to consist of. Christ is the head of the Church and He is the Savior of the body. He has authority to rule over the Church and He does so as the Head of the Body. The husband has a similar analogous earthly headship over his wife. The husband leads and guides and directs all the affairs of the spiritual household of the Church, but He does so as Christ did, who is the Savior of the Body; the One who laid down His life for her, and as such, He (that is Christ) will always be thinking about what He can do to give to her everything that she needs for life and godliness. And further, he (that is, the husband) is always thinking about everything that he can do show forth His own obedience to God’s holy law and love, and give himself for His wife, demonstrating that love, even as Christ did for the Church.

The wife and mother is to be honored for her submissive spirit. I think that she will submit to him in everything as unto the Lord. She is subject to her husband just as the church is subject to Christ, and so it is a willing, loving, subjection; not a forced one. Her husband will honor her for this holy loving submission. He will tell her how much he appreciates her loving submission; that since he is far from being the perfect husband as Christ is, he is unworthy of her submission, but he is thankful for it, and for all of her following his lead in the many decisions that they make together. The words, “that the husband may be won without a word” if “any obey not the word”, make it apparent that it is not only unbelieving husbands who are being talked about here, but even believing husbands who may not be thinking about, caring about, or loving their wives as they should; as Christ loved the Church. The Lord has appointed this submissive and silent means to speak to the heart and mind of her husband; a means which will show him without any words of anger, resentment, or defiance, that she is dedicated to serving the Lord and her husband in all matters of concern to them both. In this way, the husband might indeed be won to do what would be the right thing, and this thing which is believed by her, the value of her submission, will be of help to them both in doing the will of God. This also is something which should be deeply appreciated by the husband.

2nd – She is to be honored because of her chaste conduct and godly fear.

“While your husband beholds your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.” Chaste – Greek word hagnos, meaning clean and pure. The Greek word for fear here is phobos, meaning to be afraid or put into fear. The fear that is being talked about here is the fear of falling into anything impure in thought, word, or deed. This purity of mind and heart as it is exhibited in her careful behavior in respect to others around her, and wanting to convey this respectful behavior especially toward her husband, to show others that she is being faithful to him, not only in regard to sexual things but also in regard to his reputation in the sight of others, is of great value. It is an indication that the wife does not want to displease her husband in anything, or to talk about him in a negative complaining way in the presence of others, and that in the way that she speaks and acts, and her whole conduct is above board; pure, pleasant, and holy; wholly devoted to Christ and to her husband. Husbands, do you have a wife who is this way? Then you should honor her for it by telling her how much you value and appreciate her love and faithfulness and support of you. That you realize that this is the grace of God act work in your dear wife, and you appreciate her faithfulness to you in this regard.

3rd – She is to be honored because of her gentle and quiet spirit.

Verses 3-5 of 1st Peter 3 – “Do not let your adornment be merely outward – arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel – rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.” “For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands...”

Certainly these are words which we all need to take notice of. There is the outward adornment – the arranging of the hair, the wearing of gold, the putting on of fine apparel, and then there is the adorning of the hidden person of the heart. It is not that the outward things are not important but they need not be so impressive that they are always drawing attention to the woman, as if that was the most important thing. What should this hidden person of the heart of a woman be adorned with? She should be adorned with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. This is very precious in the sight of God, and it ought to be honored and deeply appreciated by every husband and the children in the household as well.

The Pulpit Commentary says – “literally, *in the incorruptibility of the meek and quiet spirit.*” “This ornament is incorruptible; not like those corruptible things.” “The meek spirit does not flash into anger, does not answer again, takes harsh words gently and humbly.” “The quiet spirit is calm and tranquil; peaceful in itself, it spreads peace around.” Husbands and children – This is something that needs to be honored when it is known and seen in the life of the wife and mother. Let her know how much you appreciate this meek and quiet spirit. Express to her how glad you are that she is self-controlled and patient and loving and kind; not given to outbursts of anger and shouting and trying to control everyone by her words. How great is the grace in such a woman.

4th – She is to be honored because of her doing good to all of her household.

Verse 6 – “For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.” Doing good without any terror or “amazement” as it is translated in the King James. The reference of Peter is to Genesis 18: 9-14 – “Then they said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” So he said, “Here, in the tent.” And He said, “I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son.” (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.) Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?” And the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”

I want you to see that Sarah did fall into unbelief in regard to the promise, but in the middle of it, she calls her husband Abraham her lord, and she was honored for this by Peter as he wrote the Scripture. She fell into amazement that she would have a child at 90 years of age. Could this really happen? Yes, it really could, and it really did. But even though Sarah was amazed, she still thought respectfully of Abraham as her earthly lord. Husbands, you ought to appreciate very much your wife, who holds you in high regard and esteem, even in the most impossible of situations. You ought to appreciate her more and more as the days go by, and tell her how thankful you are that the Lord brought the two of you together to walk through this life together, and to learn that the ways of God are higher than our ways, and His thoughts than our thoughts.

