

1 **The iron cauldron and the porcelain vase**

1 Peter 3:7

2 **Marriage is for life!**

- A couple in the check-out line at the grocery store. And as they waited, they were discussing their upcoming 50th wedding anniversary.
- The young cashier overheard them and said, "I can't imagine being married to same man for 50 years!"
- That wise wife replied, "Well, Honey, don't get married until you can!"
-

3 **1 Peter 3:7**

- *Husbands, in the same way live with your wives knowledgeably, as with the weaker female vessel, showing them honor as fellow heirs also of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.* (LEB)
- *Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.* KJV

4 **Why only one verse for husbands?**

- Peter focused on those who were liable to experience oppression from authorities (whether rulers, masters, or husbands) rather than those who actually exercised authority

5 **In the same way...**

- This passage is another instance of living under authority, started with 2:17
- We are all to obey our authorities while acting in reverential fear of God
 - We are all to be subject to government even if they do not have our best interests at heart
 - A household slave is to be subject to a master even if he is not godly
 - A Christian wife is to be subject to her husband, even if he is lost

6 **In the same way (2)**

- Two principles guide all these relationships:
 - Act in reverential fear of God
 - Act in a way that causes others to glorify God as they see the life of Christ lived out in front of them
- Now Peter addresses another relationship to be guided by these same principles
 - How a husband treats his wife
- Just as the wife's submission contributes to a godly home, the husband's leadership should contribute in the same way

7 **In the same way (3)**

- A Christian wife's submission is a powerful testimony of Christ in her life which can glorify God and be used to witness to her husband
- A husband's Christ-like treatment of his wife with love and tenderness is a powerful testimony of the love of Christ that earns the respect of those subject to his authority
- GUYS, how you treat your wife reflects on your walk with Christ!

8 **Dwelling with them**

- Young's Literal Translation (YLT)
 - *The husbands, in like manner, dwelling with them, according to knowledge, as to a weaker vessel—to the wife—imparting honor, as also being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered.*
 - Present participles indicate continuous action
 - “While continuously *dwelling* with them according to knowledge, *constantly be imparting* honor to them as your fellow-heirs of the grace of life so that your prayers together are not hindered.”

9 **According to knowledge**

- A husband is to dwell with his wife according to Christian knowledge
 - Understanding that God created your wife
 - Understanding that marriage is a picture of the relationship that Christians have with Christ
 - The man represents Christ
 - The wife represents the church
- Dwell with the *woman*
 - In NT Greek, when a passage refers to “the man” and “the woman” in the same passage, it means “the husband” and “the wife.” (1 Timothy 2:12)

10 **Focus on giving**

- The word “giving” is the rendering of a Greek word which means “to assign to, to portion off.”
 - Husbands should keep a special place of honor in their hearts for their wives.
 - They should treat them with special deference, courtesy, respect, and kindness.
 - Husbands must maintain an unselfish focus
 - (Wives, unselfish concern is a 2-way street)
-

11 **Giving honor**

- The word *honor* here is translated *precious* in 1:19 -- *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot*
- Of infinite worth and value because there is nothing else that can compare to it in beauty and function

12 **Giving honor (2)**

- Your wife fulfills unique functions that no other woman can righteously fulfill
- Be a gentleman to all women, but give to your wife a special deference, courtesy, respect, and kindness that you give to no other

13 **Giving honor (3)**

- Etiquette: When introducing one person to another, you should always introduce the person of lesser rank to the person of higher rank:
 - Your Majesty, may I introduce Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones, may I introduce Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth (Queen outranks commoner)

– Judy, this is John Bishop. John, this is my wife Judy Rohlin. (Wife outranks anyone else.)

14 **Giving honor (4)**

- In 1 Peter 3, the wife is addressed first, because hers is the position of honor
 - God’s system is turned upside down
 - The one who is in subjection is the one to be honored, in part because they demonstrate that Christ subjected Himself to the Father’s will
 - The one who is in authority has responsibility – including the responsibility to show honor to the one under subjection
- But submission is to be offered freely

15 **Giving honor (5)**

- He is not told to claim submission, or to insist upon it as his peculiar right.
- He is exhorted to give the wife honor as the weaker vessel. He must show to her, as the finer and more delicate vessel:
 - Kindness, tenderness, consideration, loving sympathy,
 - As Paul said in Ephesians: *Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church.*

16 **How might you honor your wife?**

- Practice etiquette:
 - Open doors
 - Pull out chair
 - Help with coat
 - Have good table manners, even when you’re not in public
- Rehearse her strengths and virtues in the ears of others; never criticize in public
- Show patience and gentleness
- Ask God for more ways to show her honor

17 **A cauldron and a vase**

- The strong iron cauldron (the husband) can easily smash the fine Ming vase (the wife)

18 **The vessel**

- The word “vessel” is the translation of a Greek word referring to a vessel used in the services of the temple (Mark 11:16), also to household utensils.
 - The English word comes from a Latin word *vasellum*, the diminutive form of *vas*, a vase, the Latin words referring to a receptacle which covers and contains. Thus, the word comes to refer to an instrument whereby something is accomplished.

19 **The vessel (2)**

- It is used in the latter sense here. The word is used of Paul who is called “a chosen vessel” (Acts 9:15), a chosen instrument of God. The husband is to dwell with the wife, remembering that she is an instrument of God as well as the husband, a child of God to be used by Him to His glory.
 - Wuest, Kenneth S. *Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament*. For the English Reader. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997. Print.

20 **Proverbs 12:4**

- *A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: But she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in*

his bones. (KJV)

- *A woman of strength is the crown of her master, but like rot in his bones is she who brings shame.* (LEB)

21 **A weaker vessel**

- The woman is called the “weaker partner” (*skeuos*, lit. “vessel”); but this is not to be taken morally, spiritually, or intellectually
- It simply means that the woman has less physical strength

22 **THE TREATMENT OF FINE CHINA**

23 **How do you treat fine china?**

- Handle with care
 - Put in safe, protected place with napkins or doilies between dishes to prevent damage
- Wash by hand with towel in bottom of sink and pieces separated to prevent damage and chipping; dishwasher is too hot and its detergent is too abrasive
- Wash one piece at a time; avoid using anything abrasive; sponge or soft cloth only; use mild detergent (Dawn or Ivory)

24 **How do you treat fine china?**

- If you use it less than once / year, give it at least an annual washing to prevent yellowing
- If using for tea or coffee with milk/cream, pour in the milk/cream first, then add the hot liquid (prepare for changes)

25 **How do you treat fine china? (2)**

- So avoid:
 - Heat (anger)
 - Abrasives (correction without gentleness)
 - Sudden changes without preparation and buffering
- Provide:
 - A safe place (mercy and love)
 - Protection – from limitations; needs rest
 - Regular, individual attention with an appreciation for beauty – 1-on-1 time to demonstrate love and care

26 **When fine china is damaged**

- Hairline Crack Repair:
 - Soak the china in warm milk overnight. Gently hand wash in warm water with mild dish detergent.
 - (Be patient and gentle)
- Grey or Black Cutlery Markings:
 - Dab a damp sponge in baking soda and rub the marks gently. You could also try regular toothpaste.
 - (Be gentle when correcting flaws)

27 **When fine china is damaged (2)**

- Removing Stains:

- Mix 50/50 table salt and household vinegar. Allow to soak for a bit before washing.
- Mix a paste of baking soda and water, apply to stain and gently rub. Wash.
- (Soak in the cleansing Word of God; be patient and wait; gently make applications of the Word; be regular in washing with the Word of God)
 - (Source: tipnut.com)

28 **Joint-heirs of the grace of life**

- You are joint heirs together of the grace of life
 - In Peter's day, women were treated as property (with the exception of Macedonia, where women were accorded high honor)
 - They had no real rights of their own
 - So, saying that they were joint-heirs of grace is a big deal. Peter is saying that God treats women on an equal footing when it comes to having a relationship with Him and with respect to heavenly rewards.

29 **Galatians 3:28**

- *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*
-
- The Bible clearly indicates that gender, economic status, or race has no bearing on a person's opportunity to have an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ.

30 **A benefit & a warning**

- Peter warns that if a husband fails to treat his wife with honor, there is a consequence to the couple's prayer life
 - *Husbands, in the same way live with your wives knowledgeably, as with the weaker female vessel, showing them honor as fellow heirs also of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.*
 - YOUR (plural) prayers (plural) = "Y'all's prayers"
 - Assumes that husband and wife pray together

31 **Types of prayer**

- CLOSET prayer = one person alone with God
- CHAMBER prayer = husband and wife praying together in bedchamber (bedroom)
- COTTAGE prayer = family praying together in the home
- CONGREGATIONAL prayer = "My house shall be called a house of prayer"

32 **The power of a couple's prayer**

- Matthew 18:18-20 -- *Truly I say to you, whatever you (plural) bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you (plural) release on earth will be released in heaven. Again, truly I say to you (plural) that if two of you (plural) agree on earth about any matter that they (plural) ask, it will be done for them from my Father who is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in the midst of them.*

33 **A duty to serve the Lord**

- If you are single – (1 Corinthians 7:32)
 - *But I want you to be free from care. The unmarried person cares for the things of the Lord,*

how he may please the Lord.

34 **A duty to serve the Lord (2)**

- If you are married – PRAY TOGETHER
 - 1 Peter 3:7
 - 1 Corinthians 7:33-34 -- *But the one who is married cares for the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided. And the unmarried woman or the virgin cares for the things of the Lord, in order that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But the married woman cares for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.*

35 **Conclusion**

- As a couple, are you failing to pray together?
- As a husband, do you treat your wife with honor as the weaker vessel?
- Does your wife know that you honor her?
- If you are single, have you committed your time of singleness to serve the Lord?
- If you are married, how long has it been since you thanked God for the person He provided for you?
-