

1Pet 3.7—Husbands Honoring Their Wives

Two Duties

- I. *Likewise* (cf. v.1).
 - A. Peter makes clear that although their wives may be subject to them as husbands, they are subject to God Himself (cf. Col 4.1).
- II. To *live with his wife in an understanding way* (or, *according to knowledge*).
 - A. He is to live with her according to the knowledge he has of *himself*.
 1. *He* is her husband. He stands in a relationship to her as no other man in the world does, and no other man in all the world will be held accountable by God for her as he will.
 2. He's made *vows* and promises to her before God. These vows bind him until death separates them.
 3. He's *duty-bound to the Lord* as her covenanted husband. He's not free to be just any kind of husband. The Bible tells him how he's to conduct himself and that Christ Himself is his pattern, Eph 5.25-27.
 - B. He's to live with her according to the knowledge he has of *her*.
 1. He's to know her needs, weaknesses, infirmities, fears, strengths, works, etc. and live in the knowledge of them.
- III. To *give honor* to his wife.
 - A. She is to love and serve him as her husband by *submitting to him*; and he is to love and serve her as his wife by *honoring her*.
 1. He is to hold her in high esteem—as his wife. This isn't conditioned upon how good she is. It's rendered out of obedience to God to the woman he chose to take for a wife.
 2. She is to be first, before others, before the children, before himself, and second to none but God.
 3. None does for him and the family what she does, and therefore to her he is to give honor.
 - B. If a man can't honor his wife above himself and others, then he shouldn't marry.

Three Motives

- I. Because women are weaker vessels.
 - A. These aren't the words of a man trying to justify his place over women. These are the words of *God*, who created both male and female as equals in His image, and who yet created them with obvious, intentional, and glorious differences appropriate to His purposes for them in both society and marriage.
 - B. To say that women are weaker vessels is to say that women are intentionally created by God as physically and emotionally different. This is not a disparagement. It's the simple truth.
 1. Women don't need freedom from being thought weaker vessels. They need to embrace their womanhood and seek a

man who appreciates it and how perfectly it complements his manhood.

2. To react in anger against what it means to be a woman is to wage a war against God and miss just how precious you are as God's *female* image-bearer, Gen 1.27.
- C. God made women weaker, not to keep them under or to make them less, but in order to *draw out* of their husband's heart all that care, love, honor, and affection that He designed marriage to give them.
- II. Because she's a co-heir of the grace of life. This is the motive which most strongly binds all these duties onto the heart of a husband: that his wife is reconciled with him in Christ to God as his co-heir.
 - A. From this vantage point, he loves her because Christ loves her, *as He does him*, and because she loves Christ, *just as he does*.
- III. Because a husband's prayers will be hindered in proportion to his unfaithfulness to his wife.
 - A. Why? Because the living God will not listen to the prayers of a husband who knowingly misrepresents Christ's sacrificial, loving example, Eph 5.25-27.

Conclusion

- I. *Wives*, communicate with your husband about your feelings, fears, needs, and desires. He can't read your mind.
 - A. Nothing hurts him more than your disrespect of his leadership and your harsh speech, Pr 25.24. So honor him and speak respectfully to him. You are his *equal* in Christ, but Christ is the very one who calls you to be his *submissive* wife.
- II. *Husbands*, pray.
 - A. Pray for the grace to be the kind of husband God's called you to be and you vowed to be.
 - B. Pray for the wisdom to dwell with her according to knowledge.
 - C. And pray for the grace to mortify the sin of lust, the Delilah which weakens more men and husbands and damages more marriages than any other sin. Pray for purity and integrity. Pray for the grace of Job (Job 31.1-4) and Joseph (Gen 39.7-21).
- III. *To all marriages*: God's way is always the best. It's impossible to do marriage in any other way without compromising the real dignity and happiness of both husband and wife, as well as the entire household. So pray for *forgiveness* where you've failed and for *grace* to do as you should. And above all, pray for *love*, which is the sum of all the duties you owe each other, Eph 5.25; Col 3.19; Tit 2.4-5.