

Cornerstone Church

February 12, 2017

**Sermon Series: Practicing Our Readiness Drills for Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and 2nd Peter**

Today's Sermon: Keeping Our Conduct Honorable in the World, God's Secrets to a God-honoring Marriage

Today's Passage: 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. (ESV)**

Introduction:

Main Point: Christian husbands are to treasure, value, and protect their wives to display to the world what Christ-like love looks like in marriage. This will further keep our behavior honorable in the world so that non-believers will be able to see our **good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. 1 Peter 2:12b**

Review

**Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening. (ESV)**

- Peter commands husbands to treat their wives with dignity and honor since they are equals in God's sight. They are to do this by:
  1. **Living with them.** Greek: συνοικοῦντες or sunoikountes. It means: to dwell in the same house sharing the same bed. (Refer also to 1 Corinthians 7:3)
  2. **In an understanding way.** Literally: according to knowledge.
    - A. A man does not need to understand women in general, but he does need to understand his own wife.
      - i. However, it is helpful if he starts out with a basic knowledge of women and then goes deeper with his own wife. Here is what Christian author and counselor, Willard Harley has discovered over decades of counseling:
        - ✓ Women need 1) **Affection**, Romans 12:10, 2) **Conversation**, Hebrews 10:24 & Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, 3) **Honesty and Openness**, Proverbs 12:22, 4) **Financial Support**, 1 Timothy 5:8, and 5) **Family Commitment** Ephesians 6:1-3.
      - ii. With this basic knowledge, a good husband will go deeper and know how to put the above 5 in correct order for his own wife and,
      - iii. He will also know which of Gary Chapman's five love languages is top on his wife's list: They are 1) Words of Affirmation, 2) Quality Time, 3) Receiving Gifts, 4) Acts of Service, and 5) Physical Touch.
      - iv. He will also look at her past and see the kind of home she grew up in and know what her defaults are and how to help her overcome those natural bents (while assiduously working on his own defects

from his past).

### 3. **While honoring them as equal heirs to the grace of life.**

- Negatively this means not being physically or verbally abusive. Not having to win every argument. Not bringing up her faults or failings again and again. Not bullying or threatening her. Not getting impatient.
- Positively this means serving her needs and valuing her contributions to the family and marriage. It means telling her where she is gifted and how important that gifting is to him. It means letting others know how much he appreciates his wife in front of others. It means letting the children know that she is treasured and that life might be shortened physically if a child ever threatens the welfare of his/her mother.
- It also means that the husband knows that in the eyes of God both are equal and valued equally. Taking the lead spiritually in the home is another way of demonstrating his treasuring of her because he cares about her spiritual growth.
- That equality may become an inequality in eternity! Based on the way God hands out rewards and the fact that there is no marriage in heaven, a husband may find himself under his former wife's leadership as she disciples those who disciple others in eternity. **since they are heirs with you of the grace of life**

### 4. **Because women are fragile.**

- The Greek word *astheneo* usually means, sickly, ill, weak, or frail and can refer to physical weakness or spiritual weakness. I believe that yes, women have less brute strength than men (but don't talk about that during childbirth) and this could refer to overall strength and the fact that women can be intimidated by that,
- I believe that a better understanding is, women are wired

to be nurturers and their emotional wiring is always geared for the greatest sensitivity. This does not make them emotional inferiors but emotionally superior in the sense they are made to "pick up" on signals men miss. This makes their heart more vulnerable to hurt. Men, treat your wives (future wives as well) like fine china.

- The fine china idea is implied by the fact that Peter tells husbands that their wives are weaker "vessels" or "skeuei" in Greek. That word is used for household utensils or plates.

### 5. And, husbands are to treat their wives with honor and dignity so that their **prayers will reach their intended destination.** - so that your prayers may not be hindered.

- ✓ This only motivates a husband who values his prayer life and wants to have a vibrant daily walk with the Lord.
- ✓ The deterrent to a husband who wants that daily walk with God and all the rewards that go with it, but refuses to treat his wife with gentleness and respect (treasuring) is that God will close the throne room doors to all his requests.

### Application

1. This is not optional for husbands. Submission by his wife to him is voluntary, but servant leadership in the home is not a matter of convenience.
2. This means that spiritual leadership in the home is also not optional. Men cannot defer this to their wives or abdicate from this responsibility. Getting started from a dead stop may be awkward but that is no excuse. Buck up. Man up. Be a man.
  - Protect your wife from the insults of your children. Long ago they should have learned that this disrespect has no place in the home, but if that lesson was not learned earlier, then for sure that lesson needs to be learned in the teen years.