

Marriage & The Bible
How to Correct It
The Husband's Duty (B)
I Peter 3:7

Introduction - I read about a wife who developed a holiday tradition. Every Christmas she bought her husband a large, intricate jigsaw puzzle, and each year the entire family would combine their skill to meet the challenge of the puzzle. Of course, the wife would always hide the cover of the box, where the picture of the finished puzzle appeared, so that there would be no clue as to what the picture looked like. But one year she left a cover exposed on the table. Her husband spread out the pieces of the puzzle and began the task of putting them together. For days he struggled without success. And then he discovered that the pieces of the puzzle on which he was working did not match the picture on the box. His wife had bought two puzzles and had switched the boxes. He had a false picture of what the finished puzzle would look like.

Many today are trying to put together their marriage and family by following a false picture painted by the world, only to find that the pieces don't fit.

We need to follow God's picture painted on the pages of His Word, the Bible!

We have been doing just that....we have seen:

1. Marriage as God created it, Gen. 2
2. Marriage, how Satan corrupted it, Gen. 3.
3. Marriage, how to correct it, Eph. 5.

- Spirit-filled wives, submitting.
- Spirit-filled husbands, loving.

How are husband's to love their wives? Answer, "sincerely." Ask, *what kind of love is that?*

Eph. 5:25-33:

1. Unconditionally
2. Sacrificially
3. Sanctifyingly
4. Affectionately
5. Exclusively

But we are not done looking at the husband's duties. There are two more I want to cover.

1. Husbands are to "Dwell with their wife's understandingly."
2. "Honor their wives very highly."

Our text is I Peter 3:7, read it.

So the first duty for the husband is to.....

I. Dwell With His Wife Understandingly

“Likewise, ye husband’s dwell with them” or “in an understanding way,” vs. 7.

What does this mean? It links this verse with the preceding subject. What’s the subject?

Submission, vs. 2:18 & 3:1.

So the same Holy Spirit that makes a wife “meek and quiet” would make the husband, “kind and attentive.”

Let me bread down what it means for a husband to *“dwell with his wife according to knowledge.”*

We learn from this verse that the husband’s relationship with His wife is to cover four areas!

1. It’s Physical, “dwell with them.”

- It’s a good idea for married couples to live together!
- But it’s much more than sharing the same address! “The compound verb “dwell with” occurs only here in the New Testament. It has a general or a specific meaning, *“to live together as husband and wife, to cohabit.”* or *“to live chastely with your wife; to cohabit with them alone.”*

Marriage is to be a physical relationship where the *“two become one flesh.”* There is to be sexual intimacy in marriage. See I Cor. 7:1-5.

But also the general meaning (to make a home for). The husband must make a home for his wife and be at home for his wife. A *“provider”* and *“protector”*. I Tim. 5:8, *“But if any provide not for his own....”* But also the husband needs to be home for his wife and children.

The danger - your home; but not really there! Even for Christian workers! A survey showed that couples spent only thirty-seven minutes in actual conversation.

2. It’s Intellectual, “according to knowledge” vs. 7.

Husbands, even though you are a man, you are to seek to understand your wife.

It’s “be understanding” or “live in an understanding way.”

Charles Swindoll, *“The success of your dwelling with your wife, will be in direct proportion to your knowledge of her.”*

You need to know her:

- Fears
- Cares
- Disappointments
- Expectations
- Hopes
- Dreams
- Joys, etc., etc.

How can you as a husband show consideration for her if you don't understand her needs.

It takes communication and care. Listening and sensitivity. It means to be considerate of her.

It also teaches us that a husband needs a understanding of Christian principles directing the marriage relationship. It's knowing and practicing scripture principles formed in God's Word!

Ask? Do you as a husband?

II. **Honor His Wife Very Highly**, vs. 7b

We discover now two more dimensions of the husband-wife relationship. There's the physical and the intellectual. Now we have the emotional and the spiritual.

1. **It's Emotional** - giving honor unto the wife.

Ask, What does it mean to give honor unto the wife? The K.J.V. “giving” is to “grant” to “assign” or to “apportion” to someone.

The term “honor” and the words in verse four “great price”- lit. “precious”; are from the same greek root.

So husbands are to keep assigning great value to their wives, because they are God's precious gifts.

Ask? Husbands, do you do that?

Does she know it? Do you talk to her? Do you show her?

Alistair Begg, *“There is no more precious gift entrusted to a man than the treasure of his wife. She is to be admired and prized above all others. She is to have first place in his heart, mind, and affections. She is to be given special care and attention that leaves no doubt of her husband’s esteem.”*

The danger of taking her for granted! It’s the little things. William Barclay...it’s showing “chivalry.” It’s a gracious “courtesy” and “generosity.”

One husband said to another, “I can’t stand that wife of mine any longer. She’s always asking me for money. All she thinks about money, money, money! It gets me down.” “What does she do with it?” asked the sympathetic friend. “I surely don’t know,” he said. “I never give her any.”

Why should husbands give honor unto their wives? Peter gives us three reasons.

1. The wife is the weaker vessel.

- It’s not intellectually, morally or emotionally.
- It’s physical.
- It’s her “position” and “purposes.”

D. Edmond Hiebert, *“The wife may be considered weak because of her roll as wife. She, by marrying, has accepted a position where she submits herself to her husband. Such a position is vulnerable, open to exploitation. The husband is commanded not to take advantage of the woman’s vows of submission.”* Her acceptance of a position of weakness in submission to him is a call to her husband for consideration and thoughtful support. *“Christian knowledge will accord the wife all the consideration and the thoughtfulness which God intends for her ‘as the weaker vessel’ in the ‘wifely’ relation.”*

2. “You are heirs together of the Grace of Life.”

3. “That your prayers be not hindered.”

Theses two reasons lead us to the last dimension in the husband-wife relationship.

2. It’s Spiritual. “And as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

Remember your wife is also your sister in Christ and a child of God! You share the same Father in Heaven. The same Savior and Lord. Believe the same Bible.

A husband and wife that have both been born again can have a deeper unity then the non-Christian. One reason why a Christian should never marry a non-Christian!

Peter assumed that husbands would pray, and also pray with their wives. Husbands and wives ought to be prayer partners. Satan will do all he can to keep you from praying together.

An improper marriage relationship closes the windows of Heaven!

You can't be right with God if you are wrong with your wife.

Illus., Jesus said, "Leave your gift at the altar!"

Do you need to get right with God? Then get right with your wife!