

1 Peter 3:7 A Word to Husbands

11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

I am backing up into Ch. 2 to remind us of the context that Peter is talking about here

A) Talking to believers in the first century who were enduring great persecution for following Jesus

B) Peter is talking about how we can live honorably in a world that is hostile toward Jesus
1) Our conduct if honorable can actually take people who are hostile toward Jesus and bring them to Jesus

C) The world that we live in is growing increasingly hostile toward Jesus – What do I mean

Well up until about 12-13 years ago being a Christian in this country was predominantly seen as a positive thing

A) It was really not that difficult to be a Christian in the USA

B) It didn't cost you anything and in many ways it could actually be seen as an advantage

C) But that has been changing rapidly

Give you a couple of examples – When I was growing up in High School and middle School 70's

A) Believing in a God who created the world was definitely acceptable – more the norm

B) Today in most secular educational institutions if you believe in creation –
1) You are laughed at for believing a fairy tale

C) When I was growing up the Biblical views of gender and same sex attraction
1) Sex outside of marriage and extra marital sex or adultery –

D) The Biblical view of those things as being wrong was the socially accepted viewpoint

1) Only those who were rebellious, and promiscuous exchanged in that behavior – always in secret

E) Hidden never in public

But in today's Culture a Christian who holds to the Biblical view of those things

A) Will at best be looked down upon and at worst he will be attacked and maligned

B) See it happening – Christians are being sued for holding these views – losing their jobs

C) We live in a cancel culture that is seeking to cancel God right out of our culture

Our Culture is getting more and more Hostile toward followers of Jesus

A) Peter wants us to see though that our the way we conduct ourselves can have an impact ...unsaved

B) Christians conduct in relationship to GOVT – Christians conduct in the workplace

C) Our conduct in the Home – Christian marriage can be a tremendous witness to unbelievers

D) A strong and vibrant Christian marriage can have a wonderful and lasting impact

1) On everyone who encounters that couple

Chapter 3 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— 4 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. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror. 7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the

weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Once again Peter is not giving an exhaustive teaching on marriage here like Paul does in Ephesians 5

A) Focus is on the Conduct of Wives married to unbelievers – last week

B) Today the Husband in general – once again – say if you are not married – listen up –

1) Great insight into women (treat your sisters in Christ)

C) Peter shares – three main principles that He wants Christian Husbands to understand –

- Submission is mutual
- Understanding is necessary
- Honor is essential

D) These three principles that will be a blessing to their marriage

E) 1st Submission is Mutual - **7 Husbands, likewise,**

That word likewise is the connecting word to the section that came before it – Ch. 2

A) Said the same thing to the wife -3:1 **Wives, likewise**

B) In Ch. 2 learning about what Submission looks like

1) In Society / In the workplace

C) He ends chapter 2 by talking about the example of submission found in Jesus

Starts Chapter 3 Wives likewise – this is where you are to be like Jesus –

A) **walk in submission to your husbands** – he described what that looked like

B) Then in V.7 he says **Husbands Likewise** – here is what your submission is supposed to look like

C) The idea of Mutual submission is found throughout the Bible – **which is surprising to a lot of men**

D) For instance they read what Paul writes about marriage in Ephesians 5 and they think the

teaching on Marriage starts in V.22 Wives submit....

1) They love that verse – they have it memorized

E) They completely ignore the verse that comes before it V.21 **Submitting to one another out of reverence to Christ – Ephesians 5:21**

1) Describing mutual submission- submitted to each other because they are first submitted to Jesus

Goes back even further than that though

A) **Book of Genesis – the First marriage – God creates man and women –**

B) **And God blessed them and said to them...Be fruitful/ take care of the garden**

C) Marriage was always meant to be a partnership – defined roles

1) Husband and wife working together and submitted to each other – because they are first submitted to God.

There was a guy driving his car out in a country road, and he came to a very narrow bridge on a narrow road. **In front of him was the sign Yield.** So he thought, "Okay, that's my job to yield to oncoming traffic." So he slows down to a stop, peers over to see if anybody's coming. It's all clear, so he goes ahead

Later on that afternoon he comes back over the same bridge, and on that side of the bridge was another sign that said Yield. So he thought, "That's funny, I thought the yield sign was on the other side that I came in on this morning."

So, as he went across the bridge he looked back to make sure, and sure enough, on both sides of the bridge was the sign Yield.

The point being is this: you want to avoid a head-on collision? Both drivers need to yield.

D) The same thing is true in a marriage – You want to avoid head on collisions in your marriage?

You and your wife need to learn to Yield

A) And that is easier to do when you are both first yielded to Jesus

B) So the first thing that Peter points out to the Husband is that Submission is mutual –
1) you likewise walk in submission Jesus / then wife

2nd Thing: Understanding is Necessary
7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding,

A) Know your wife! Study her, get to know what makes her tick, figure out how her mind works,

B) And learn what are her gifts, her desires, her talents, her hopes and dreams.

C) I think there are 3 main things that a Husband needs to understand about his wife.

#1 Her unique God given design

A) God made Adam first – not good that Adam should be alone – So he made him a wife – Eve

B) Why did God Create Eve – 4 reasons
#4 God knew that if the world was to be populated there would have to be someone to bear children because men would never be able to handle it.

3. God knew that Adam would never make a doctor's appt for himself.

#2 The Bible says, "It is not good for man to be alone", because he only ends up getting himself in trouble.

#1 When God finished the creation of Adam he stepped back, scratched his head & said, "**I can do better than that**"

Interesting that when God created Eve – He gave her this very Unique title – Helper- Ezer Kenegdo

A) This word is used 21 times in scripture 19 X of God and Two times for the wife

B) God is described as the Ezer Kenegdo

- The helper of the fatherless (Psalm 10:14)
- King David's helper and deliverer (Psalm 70:5)
- Israel's shield and helper (Deuteronomy 33:29)

C) Ezer = "a helper of the same nature," or a corresponding character.

1) *Kenegdo* literally means "as in front of him,"

In relation to the wife it describe her as husbands essential comrade –

A) Possessing a strength and power that is comparable to the husband.

B) In other words she has been given certain strengths and abilities that are meant to compliment her husband

C) So the wife has been given this unique title and role by God

D) The wise Husband realizes that God has gifted the wife in a unique way to work with him

1) as they serve God together

So first of all a husband needs to understand his wife's unique role and place

A) #2 He needs to understand that they are different in many ways

B) Men and women think differently: Your temples behind your veil are like a piece of pomegranate. Song of Solomon 4:3

1) What the heck does that mean?

C) Solomon has all these crazy lines that worked in that culture – but don't in ours - He said his wife that her belly is like a round coblet or her belly is like a heap of wheat - -

D) Guys you don't want to describe your wife's belly as round or say – that your wives belly is like a heap of anything

1) So there are lines that Solomon uses that don't work in our culture –

2) modernize the lingo to compliment your wife.

This line in SOS 4:3 Solomon is complimenting her brain when he says, "Your temples behind your veil are like a piece of pomegranate."

A) Remember inspired by God – her temples are like a piece of pomegranate

B) This is interesting because - if you open up a pomegranate, you see there are many sections inside

1) little ones and big ones.

C) God is describing what a woman's mind is like. It is Complex with many sections, big and small.

Modern science backs up Solomon's insight.

A) We know that the brain contains two hemispheres—the left and the right.

B) Neuroscientists tell us that women typically have a larger pathway and connection between the two hemispheres

1) so that information flows more freely.

C) To Compare - most men have a footpath, most women have a superhighway

Part of God's design for the wife in being the Ezer Kenegdo is she is good at communicating.

A) How she communicates is the key –

B) She can encourage, enhance and inspire, or she can criticize, condemn and corrupt

C) A wise Husband who is dwelling with his wife in Understanding

1) is going to realize her input can be valuable and he will seek it out - Value her opinion

But here is the thing though – men and women don't just think differently

A) But they also communicate differently

B) Women are generally more verbal and more in touch with their emotions and better at forming deep relationships.

C) Men are better with non-verbal tasks. That's why we have the remote control

D) Men like the bottom line, just cut to the chase. What are you trying to say?

1) We don't want details. Right, men?

E) You know what women want? Details, details, and more details.

Which is One of the reasons why, perhaps, communication experts tell us the average woman speaks 25,000 words a day.

A) The average man speaks around 12,500 words per day, just under half.

B) Now what does that mean in marital terms?

C) It means when he comes home in the evening, gals, he's already used up 12,495 words.

1) He only has got five left. –

D) Wife on the other hand, you're just getting started.

He's wondering, "How come she talks so much?"

E) And she's thinking, "He never says anything."

So Husbands in order to dwell with your wife in understanding

A) You need to learn how to communicate

B) When to talk – when to just listen -

Ladies Please hear me on this: Don't expect your husband to be a mind reader –

A) I don't know why women assume that – (If he really loved me he would figure it out)

B) Ladies please listen to me on this: Your husband needs you to spell it out for him –

1) just tell him what you need and what you want –

C) It will make things so much better – please just spell it out

I have found with my wife Denise – sometimes she likes to just vent –

A) But my tendency is to want to fix things – so I have learned to ask

B) Do you want me just to listen – venting? Or do you want a response?

1) Am I being asked to do anything here other than listen? SPELL IT OUT

C) Guys – when she is done venting – Pray with her

1) It will Mean the world to her

D) **Learned this the hard way – Come back** – lets pray – I already called She prayed with me

So guys you need to be willing to Study your wife – know how she thinks – what makes her tick

A) And know that some of things will change over the yrs – as She goes through the different seasons of life

B) Now you can view those changes as a drag and complain about her being so complicated

1) or you can SEE it as a GREAT adventure

C) My BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY – Love mysteries

Last year I started working on my Master's degree in Seminary –

A) Continue to grow in my calling and a degree could open more doors in the future.

B) If I continue in two years I will have my master's Degree

C) Well I have been studying my wife for over 34 yrs now and I still don't have my Master's degree in Denise-ology –

D) But I am committed to spending the rest of my life learning studying that woman – It is Fun/ JOY

I read a true story this week about a man named Tom Anderson who made a **private vow** to try to be a loving, giving, unselfish husband for the two weeks that his the family was on vacation.

He worked hard at noticing his wife, of attending to her needs, of doing what she wanted to do, even if he really rather would have done something else. It went great.

Toward the end of the time, he made a **new private vow** to keep on choosing to love his wife like this.

But on the last night of the vacation, his wife was noticeably upset. Finally she blurted, "Tom, do you know something I don't?"

Tom looked at his wife and said "What do you mean?" What is wrong?

His wife said – well you know a couple of weeks ago I had that doctors appointment with our doctor – Did he tell you something about me - **Tom, you've been so good to me ... am I dying?"**

It took a moment for it all to sink in. Then Tom burst out laughing, took her in his arms, and said, "**No, honey, you're not dying; I'm just starting to live.**"

D) It is coming to believe what Jesus said is true it is more blessed to give than to receive –

1) letting that truth permeate every area of your marriage YOU will be blessed – and your marriage will be Vibrant

So Submission is mutual – Understanding is necessary –

A) And the 3rd and final thing - Honor is essential

B) What does it mean to Honor your wife?

1) Value you her! –

C) Word describes – how you would care for a precious gem

D) Showing appreciation for who she is and how God has made her

1) Realizing she has special gifts and talents given to her by God

E) It is beautiful to see a Christian wife blossom under the encouragement of a wise husband..

1) Men, don't hold her back Let her be all she can be for the glory of God.

Honor her by Valuing her/ and Honor her by showing the confidence that you have in her to take care of things. – (Don't be a control freak)

A) Give her freedom to make decisions on matters

B) There are things that she is going to be a lot better at than you are –

1) let her do them and encourage her in it

C) About six years ago – Denise and I started our Thrive marriage ministry here at the Church –

1) My Vision – Picture in my mind -

Back then we did the Thrive events every month

A) Every month on the first Tuesday – Fight –

B) We both had ideas of how things should be set up – **by the time the night started... like each other**

C) I had to come to the realization – God gave me a vision for the night what it was supposed to be like –

1) But Denise was way better at creating an atmosphere that would make those nights really special

D) Soon as I began to value her gifting – and input

1) Wisdom in letting her run with the things that she was better at than me –

E) The night became this great blessing rather than a burden!

Guys Value your wives – respect them and Praise them

A) In Proverbs 31 Solomon speaks about the Virtuous wife or the noble Woman :

B) He portrays her as a craftsman / artisan , Business person, a farmer, manager

1) She is industrious / she is frugal, Yet generous & gracious !!!!

C) Listen to how Solomon describes the Husbands attitude toward his virtuous wife in Proverbs 31:11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. NIV

V.31 Give her the reward she has earned; she should be praised in public for what she has done.

D) Guys – you honor your wife by praising her in public –

1) I love reading what some guys post about their wives on Social media

E) A great way to let the world know – I love and appreciate this woman

1) But words are cheap if you don't show that appreciation in the way that you actually treat her

Now Peter also describes two things that a husband needs to remember about his wife if he is going to Honor her well.

A) 1st She is the Weaker Vessel – He is to honor her as the weaker vessel

B) What does that mean – in what ways is she weaker? Incompetent No

1) Emotionally ? NO Spiritually? Definitely not

C) The word weaker is a word that simply means without stenos – without strength –

1) speaking of physically – physical strength

Once again this is by Divine Design

A) Man has a certain hormone, called testosterone, which makes his bone structure grow larger than a woman's

B) More fiber and muscle grow around his bones than a woman's--up to 40% of his body, in fact, is muscle.

1) A woman's body in contrast, has 23% muscle

C) A woman's blood contains more water and 20 percent fewer red blood cells which supply oxygen to the body,

1) which accounts for the fact that she will tire more easily and be more prone to faint.

D) Well you might say -my wife is a body builder and she is stronger than me – Yes there are exceptions

1) But in general the wife is going to be weaker Physically

E) A wise husband who is honoring his wife as the weaker vessel

1) is going to make sure she doesn't get overextended Know her capacity – not push her too hard

Honor her as the weaker Vessel And he is to honor her as a fellow heir of the grace life

A) Understanding that she has been gifted by God and is a Daughter of God

B) The Husband Honors his wife in realizing that She has insights and understandings that he can benefit from.

C) Guys think of it this way: Suppose you inherited ten thousand dollars, but your wife inherited ten million dollars.

1) Would you choose to have a joint checking account? Would you choose to be joint heirs? I think so!

D) Husband, you can enjoy the *charis*, the grace, the “beauty of life”

1) if you see your wife as being rich in the things of God.

Finally we have the result of Dwelling with your wife with understanding and honoring her will be an effective prayer life - that your prayers may not be hindered.

A) Peter is calling attention to something we often forget or deny:

B) That there is always a correlation between your relationship with your wife and your relationship with God

C) You as a husband or a wife for that matter cannot be in right relationship with God and a wrong relationship with your spouse

The idea of prayers hindered is like a car being out of tune – just not running properly.

A)Speaks of a military idea of an army digging a trench in a road to stop the enemy's advance.

B)It describes what Satan will do in your spiritual life.

1)He will seek to create a wedge between you and your spouse

C)So that he can create a wedge between you and God

When things like unforgiveness and bitterness and resentment – take place in a marriage –

A)They just don't affect your relationship with your spouse and kids – but it also affects your relationship with God

B)I suggest - If husbands do not take this seriously,

1)Satan will dig a trench and your prayers will be hindered and out of tune

C)As a Pastor I have often watch married people make horrible decisions in times when their marriages were estranged – or in conflict

D)I prayed about it and had a peace - I suggest to you that peace wasn't from the Lord –

1)the conflict in your marriage has caused your prayer life to be out of tune.

E)What you are doing contradicts God's word

F)Being right with your spouse affects your life spiritually

This is Hard stuff? True because we are selfish by nature – Hard but not impossible

¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:17,18