

LIFE TOGETHER | “Healthy Marriages”

1 Peter 3:1-7

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How do we have healthy marriages? By husbands and wives living out their roles by the grace of God.

I. Wife (3:1-6)

- A. Submit to your husband (vv. 1-2)
- B. Value what God values (vv. 3-4)
- C. Place your hope in God (vv. 5-6)

II. Husband (3:7)

A. Lead your wife graciously (1 Cor. 11:3).

Headship is the divine calling of a husband to take primary responsibility for Christlike, servant leadership, protection, and provision in the home. **John Piper – *This Momentary Marriage*, p. 8**

▪ What headship is not . . .

- > It’s not being the boss.
- > It’s not leading by intimidation.
- > It’s not living without accountability.
- > It’s not lording one’s position or power over another for personal gain.

Abdication of responsibility is more common than domination. [A husband’s] abdication of authority is as unbiblical as his abuse of it. **Brian Chapell – *Ephesians*, p. 274**

B. Love your wife sacrificially (Eph. 5:25-33).

...This is not a directive to the godly husband to relate to his wife in a manner that merely keeps “peace at any price.” To do so relinquishes his God-given responsibility for which he will one day give an account to God. Being a biblical husband is serious business. A faithful husband must lovingly lead his wife, which will require him to make decisions that do not make her happy and perhaps may even aggravate her at times. There is no escaping the Christian husband’s obligation to shepherd his wife toward holiness and obedience (Eph. 5:26). Therefore, in reality, the passive husband does not really love his wife as Christ loves the church. Instead, he loves himself, and fears his wife, more than he loves and fears God. **Paul Tautges – *Divine Motivation for Husbands*, BCC**

C. Live with your wife intelligently (v. 7a).

1. Know your wife

2. Know the gospel

- * A healthy marriage begins not with knowing one another but with knowing God.

Two reasons:

(1) Because the gospel brings transformation

God saved you and made you his obedient child to resist being conformed to the passions of your former ignorance.

1 Peter 1:13–16 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

> Know the root of marital strife.

We must never be naïve enough to think of marriage as a safe harbor from the Fall. . . . The deepest struggles of life will occur in the most primary relationship effected by the Fall: marriage. -**Dan Allender and Tremper Longman III**

> Know the gospel so you can influence your wife to be holy (Eph. 5:25-27).

> Know what marriage is according to God’s word.

Four words: Provision, protection, procreation, and proclamation.

...Marriage is not mainly about staying in love. It’s about covenant keeping. And the main reason it is about covenant keeping is that God designed the relationship between a husband and his wife to represent the relationship between Christ and the church. This is the deepest meaning of marriage. And that is why ultimately the roles of headship and submission are so important. If our marriages are going to tell the truth about Christ and his church, we cannot be indifferent to the meaning of headship and submission. And let it not go without saying that God’s purpose for the church — and for the Christian wife who represents it — is her everlasting holy joy. Christ died for them to bring that about. -**John Piper**

(2) Because the gospel gives inspiration

1 Peter 2:21–25 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

When my mind is fixed on the gospel, I have ample stimulation to show God’s love to other people. For I am always willing to show love to others when I am

freshly mindful of the love that God has shown me. **Milton Vincent – A Gospel Primer for Christians, p. 24**

D. Honor your wife daily (v. 7bcd).

(1) Because she is the weaker vessel (v. 7b)

- > The husband is not to take advantage of his wife but treat her as precious.
Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.
- > Husbands are to nourish and cherish their wives with tender care.
Ephesians 5:28–30 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body.
- > We are all frail creatures of dust (1 Pet. 1:24; Ps. 103:13-18).

(2) Because she is an heir with you of the grace of life (v. 7c; Rom. 8:16-17; Eph. 3:6)

1 Peter 1:3–5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

(3) Because your prayers will be hindered if you don't (v. 7d)

- > A husband's disobedience to God's command to know and honor his wife results in an interruption of God's prayer-answering power.
- > Improve your marriage so you can improve your prayer life.

In fact, much Christian teaching has gotten it exactly backwards. We're told that if we want to have a stronger marriage, we should improve our prayer lives. But Peter tells us that we should improve our marriages so that we can improve our prayer lives. Instead of prayer being the "tool" that will refine my Marriage is the tool that will refine my prayers! **Gary Thomas – Sacred Marriage, p. 75**

So concerned is God that Christian husbands live in an understanding and loving way with their wives, that he "interrupts" his relationship with them when they are not doing so. No Christian husband should presume to think that any spiritual good will be accomplished by his life without an effective ministry of prayer. And no husband may expect an effective prayer life unless he lives with his wife "in an understanding way, bestowing honor" on her. To take the time to develop and maintain a good marriage is God's will; it is serving God; it is a spiritual activity pleasing in his sight. **Wayne Grudem - 1 Peter, p. 146**