

STRATEGIC MATRIMONY

1 Peter 3:1-7

“Over the last 50 years the marriage rate in the U.S. has dropped nearly 60%.” (Axios.com)

(Genesis 2:24-25) Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

(Genesis 2:23) And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

(Ephesians 5:30-33) For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

(Colossians 2:10) “...and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”

Peter’s first admonishes the wives. (v.1-6)

Note: “*wives submit to your own husbands...*”

“Be submissive.” “Likewise,” – as “*bondservants*” of Christ, (2:16),

“Be submissive” – hypotasso: to arrange under, to subordinate.

“subjugation” – the action of bringing someone or something under domination and control.

(Ephesians 5:25-28) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

Doesn’t sound like “subjugation,” but rather “edification!”

(1 Corinthians 7:13-14) And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.

Chaste conduct – chaste: *hagnos* -reverent, pure.

Conduct: *anastrophe* – manner of life, conversation.

(Proverbs 14:1) The wise woman builds her house, But the foolish pulls it down with her hands.

(Proverbs 9:13) A foolish woman is clamorous; She is simple, and knows nothing.

(Proverbs 31:30) Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

Abraham “obeyed” (submitted-listened) to Sarah is clear in scripture. Genesis 16:2 (Hagar); Genesis 21:12

(Ephesians 5:21) “...submitting to one another in the fear of God.”

Sarah modeled the life of a woman after God’s heart! “...whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.”

Peter now turns his attention to husbands. (v.7)

“understanding” – gnosis: knowledge, intelligence.

We need “help!” The “key” to “understand” is the

(James 3:17-18) But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

“Understanding” - a willingness to love our wives “without” hypocrisy

(Romans 12:9-11) Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

Seeking to “understand” rather than to be “understood,” is the pathway to edifying your wife!

“...giving honor to the wife as to the weaker vessel...”

“...as being heirs together of the grace of life...” (v.7)

Extending to her the grace you have both received!

Warning: husbands’ treachery will get you nowhere.

(Malachi 2:13-15) And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the Lord with tears, With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the Lord has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

Husbands - Happy wife, happy prayer life!

CONCLUSION: A “strategic marital union” is where mutual submission and understanding are being exercised, according to grace.

(Colossians 3:14) But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.