

The Influence Of A Godly Husband

Building a Christ-Centered Marriage Through Knowledge, Honor, and Prayer

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Well, go ahead and turn with me to First Peter chapter 3. We're going to be focusing on just one verse tonight. It will be chapter 3 verse 7. I want to open up with a thought. I just literally had it while I was sitting that as a pastor, one of the two most important things that a pastor is to do is number one, to be in the word of God. Number two is to be in prayer. One being that we treat the word of God as the authority when it comes to commands, what we are to do and what not to do. And then in prayer, it's our active battle with what is going on with the things that we cannot see, the spiritual realm. One is we can see it. It's visible. The word of God, we can read it. The second is prayer in the world is going on spiritually. We don't know, but we know what's going on through scripture reading like Ephesians, right? There's this active battle that's going on. And as a pastor, I feel often times many times weak because I realize I'm insufficient for these things. God must move spiritually actively in the life of both Christians and to the lost.

And one of the influences of a husband is his prayer life. Is his prayer life. And you're going to see at the end, Lord willing, when I go through this, that wherever you are in your prayer life, you just treat that even more seriously. That you take the act of prayer for not only yourself, but for your family. If you have children, you pray for every single one of your children like Job. But the first one you pray for is your wife. This is the main influence that as I mentioned as a pastor is the word of God and prayer. One of the main things of a husband is the influence of his prayer life to his wife and to his children. And Satan knows that if he can stumble you in this area of prayer, he's won the battle. He's won the spiritual battle in your life and in your family's life. And so he will do everything he can to hinder that one area of your life is your prayer life. So let's go into it, shall we?

I want you to notice the first thing that jumps out as you look at verse 7 is that verses 1-6 times more to the wives and the husbands. That's the first thing that stood out to me. Six times more to wives than husbands. It isn't a matter of inspiration. By the way, God intended it to be this way. So, let's find out why. We will find out why he only chose one verse as opposed to six verses like for wives. Because you'll notice in Ephesians 5:22-23, you don't have to go there, but Paul devotes three verses to wives and then nine verses to husbands. The exact opposite. More to the husbands, less to the wives. Interesting. But regardless, the gravity of our text is not measured by content, meaning more, but rather context. Not verse count, not at all. That's what you're going to notice. Paul and Peter had different agendas. Paul wrote primarily in the text in Ephesians 5:22-23 to Christian couples instructing husbands and wives to mirror the relationship between Christ and the church. But here Peter exhorts Christians to live with hope in a hostile society.

We've been camping out in this area of hostility, right? Hostility in the government sphere, in the sphere of master and servant relationship, wives and husbands. There could be hostility in all of those spheres. And so Peter wants to give hope in all of these situations because hostile opposition may come about like I mentioned in all those various areas that I just talked about in civil authorities, workplace as well is and well in the family member dynamic. Now the counsel that Peter wants to give here is a little bit different than what he gave to the wives specifically to believing wives married to unbelieving husbands. We found that out in verses 1-6. But generally speaking, it also helped for those that do have Christian husbands. And the culture of the text, as I mentioned last week, was that if a wife was to become a Christian, it would become harder for her than as opposed to if the husband became a Christian, the unbelieving wife. I won't go too much into the detail there because I covered it in that sermon. You can go ahead and hear it for yourself. But it was rare for a man to be found himself married to an unbelieving woman in that culture. So here in verse 7, it's assumed that it's addressed to husbands having believing wives as the difference. And if a husband was married, if he was to an unbelieving wife, he remained the head of the home regardless.

He was not in the same position as a woman married to an unbelieving man because a woman's not the head of the home. Thus, Peter says less to husbands than to wives. It's significant that Peter gives any instructions to husbands. Let's just take a little step back. He doesn't teach anything about governors. What are governors supposed to do? What are kings supposed to do? Did you notice that? He doesn't teach about the masters, what the masters are supposed to do with their servants. It was always a subordinate person that he was counseling. Did you notice that? Because the whole theme of this, and we're going to continue on with church, the local church, as a last social sphere, but it's all submission. It's all submission. It's all about submission, right? So, he instructs wives to submit to their own husband. I mentioned that, their own husband last time as well. Peter clarifies that submission does not mean husbands may treat wives like property. We can go to First Corinthians 11:3. It says this, "But I would have you know that the head of every man is Christ and the head of the woman is the man and the head of Christ is God."

So as a husband, we are submitting ourselves to Christ. Christ is submitting himself to God, the heavenly father. The Lord has designed the family so that the husband is the head of his house of his wife. The Lord who designed male headship defines male headship. And so how should male headship be practiced? Well, we're going to find the answer here in this verse that he commands Christian husbands to live with their wives in love. If you look at the text, it doesn't say specifically love, but it's explained in this one way according to knowledge. Do you see that? There's passages in Peter where he doesn't explicitly say this is what it looks like, but when you look into it, you go, it does explain that. It does explain love. And I'll dive into that a little bit more, not right now, but I just wanted to lodge that into you so that you remember when we're talking about knowledge, he is actually talking about love.

Just a little bit more like Paul, a little bit about Paul, Peter's instruction includes servants and masters because Paul talks about them many times over as well. Talks about wives and husbands. But unlike Paul, let's just find out what is unlike Paul that Peter's instructions is is that he doesn't include children's or parents. And yet Paul does. Why did Peter omit children? He didn't write what he wanted to write. He wrote what God told him to write. You see, I love this because Paul

was speaking to a specific group of people going through a specific circumstance and a situation. Peter is going through a specific circumstance, a situation, and God speaks to him to speak to the people that he is instructing and counseling. As a pastor, I love that because I want to treat us the same here at Calvary Road. I want to know Lord, what is it that I am supposed to instruct here at Calvary Road? I know you present here generally speaking, but where do I go? What text do I derive to help you as a congregation?

That is my responsibility. And I took note of that. And I think that you're going to find a lot of benefit here both for husbands, Christian husbands, as for Christian wives. But here I want to also address although he doesn't make it specific talking about children he actually is addressing children there's a lesson in silence there is a lesson in silence what Peter says to husbands is actually for children as well children should be raised in a home where a husband loves his wife that's what children should see my dad loves my that's my prayer. I hope that's your prayer as well. The word love is not used as I mentioned this verse but it paints a picture of a loving husband according to knowledge.

So let me go into it. There are three ways that a Christian husband can have influence to his wife to his Christian wife. Number one to know. Number two, to honor. And number three, to pray for his wife. This is how to lead in a home full of love. So first, know your wife. Verse seven, likewise or in the same way, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge. Or another way of putting it, an understanding way. The verse calls for marital cohabitation. Live with your wives. Live with your wives. Genesis 2:24 says this, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh." Marriage establishes a completely new family household.

A husband's relationship with his wife is his most important human relationship on this earth. He is cleaved to his wife in covenant relationship of companionship. A husband is to live with his wife as not longer a as with your buddy, a housemate or a roommate. No, no, no, no, no. It is much more than that. You not only share an address together, you not only eat together, you not only, if you do, split your mortgage payments together. It is a bond that is inseparable by God. And man implies this physical relationship with a human being of utmost closeness than any relationship that a human being will ever have on this earth in a physical sense. But how does a husband make a home for his wife? How does he do it? He is to live with his wife in an understanding way according to knowledge.

There's a lot to know about a person, isn't there? You don't just know a person by getting to know them the first time or even at the marriage ceremony. It goes way beyond those instances, does it not? So he says according to knowledge. What if I just added here according to your pride what you want to do? How does that work out? Not really good, is it? According to what I want to do? No. According to knowledge, a married couple can live together and be completely strangers if they don't want to know each other. That's not how a marriage is supposed to be. I'm just stating the things that obviously is not true of you. Amen. It is a husband's responsibility then to ensure that is not the case. He is to live with his wife according to knowledge.

So the question begs is can a man understand women? I like what Paul or Peter puts down here just like with verse one it he says husband he says wife. He doesn't say you have to understand all women. He says you just have to understand your wife. Amen. That's her responsibility, man.

You only need to understand your own life. Learning one woman does take a lifetime, though. But I rather have that than what other people do, unfortunately. Juggling multiple women, never ever learning about one person. Isn't that what it is with our relationship with the Lord? We don't have many saviors, do we? We don't have many lords. We have one savior, one Lord. Amen. And we are to eternal eternity of all eternity. We're going to spend time knowing the Lord Jesus. Amen. So here on earth, we have something that we can do physically with one person.

Husband should be a lifelong learner of his wife. The command includes knowledge. But notice it doesn't say specific knowledge, just knowledge. So it could be general and specific. General and specific things like what does my wife like to eat? That's general, right? What what is her preference? Those are those are general. But specific things, what what upsets her? So I don't want that. You don't want that. Right? So, as it gets more specific, but yes, let's let's go into it. Let's let's learn about our wife because when you learn about our wife, the backside is your wife knows that you love her cuz you want to get to know her. Isn't that what Jesus wants from us? He wants us to know what his commandments. Well, we're not following commandments from our wife, but you get the point. You want to get to know the person. You want to know what they talk about, what their interests are, not just their feelings, but what they say. Actually listen to them. I know my wife, she's going to spot right away if I'm not paying attention, I get distracted.

We want to learn. We want to we want to intentionally learn. That's the idea. Amen. But it it starts off with a biblical understanding of marriage. And whatever thoughts that you had in the past, it's completely new with your wife. You don't bring in what you learned from your mom. You don't learn anything from what you learned from your sister. You are a completely new family unit. Amen. And so this is Romans 12:2. We're renewing our mind on this point. I want to know more and more about my wife biblically. Not what shaped by the worldviews, but what does it say according to scripture? I must know my wife. So you see that one, this one verse starts to unpack a lot more, doesn't it? Yes, it unravels a lot more. We just barely touched the first part of the clause. But to live with your wife according to knowledge requires that you understand God's word. And that's what we're doing. Amen. You understand your wife. It involves more than superficial knowledge more than again the general stuff, but what your wife's mood is. What what is her view on things? I talked about Charlie Kirk with my wife. Why not? What is her strengths? What are her weaknesses? What are her needs? What are her fears? What hurts her? What pains her? What grieves her? What are some of her goals that she would like to accomplish? I want to find interest in all those areas. And can only attain this knowledge by living with your wife in an what? According to knowledge.

See, your wife cannot learn from her parents anymore. That's that's unbiblical, from her girlfriends, which is fine but primarily cannot be learned. It's the husband not the colleagues at work your husband the husband must do that. So another way of putting you must study your w your wife for yourself not ask parents or girlfriends or the colleagues at work. So that requires spending time. In order to do that, it's going to require time. Are you making time? Are you making more time than you are now? If you have been hearing me and saying, "I haven't done that, done that, done that," then maybe it's your time. Are you listening carefully to your wife? Are you paying attention to what she says? As I mentioned, my own fault sometimes. Do you have concern over her concerns? Do you get involved in what she is doing? Do you pray for

those things that she's involved in? You encourage her instead of pouting on her, encouraging her by wanting to know her.

Genesis 2:18 says this, "And the Lord God said, is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him and help me meet for him." The word husband means houseband. Houseban, a band of strength around the home, upholding, protecting, and keeping it all together. A houseband, husband. Always remember that God made it this way. So the germ of the state is the germ of the family unit. The husband is so important as the head of the home stands at the beginning of all the worthiest elements of society. And that's why the devil attacks the home because he knows if you can get that small union just one at a time, the whole thing will collapse. Is that what we're not seeing? So in the household, he plants the seeds of the word of God. And out of that, when we come together, we have a strong church. I've heard the phrase, and I think it's a good a good phrase, strong husbands equals strong churches. Strong husbands equals strong churches.

The family is the spring head of the nation, the source of its purest spiritual and civil life right in the home. It is plain what manner of man the husband ought to be. The husband is the model home must love his wife. He is the one that brings it all together to allow the wife to do all these things that I mentioned. So Paul says in Colossians 3:19 the similarity here husbands love your wise wives and he notes here be not bitter against them or another way of putting it harsh that's what bitter means means to be harsh towards your wife these are strong Bible words is it not how important not to be harsh to our wives.

So then we go to next, honoring your wife. 1 Peter 2:17 begins, if you look there, honor all men. It ends with honor the king. And now here in 1 Peter 3:7 instructs us, honor your wife. And I, if you notice in verse 17, it was just short like quick to the point, right? And it's very much the way Peter closes. And he does this well when it comes to when he uses metaphors like military terms because you know in the military it's just quick commands, right? For us to remember. And as men this is a spiritual battle. Remember talking about prayer. It's like just get this. Honor your wife quick. Honor your wife. You're stumbling. Honor your wife. It's the ideas, the sense, the brunt of this part of the passage.

So, let's dive into it. Honoring your wife. Matthew Henry put it like this. Giving due respect to her and maintaining her authority, protecting her person, supporting her credit, delighting in her conversation, affording her handsome maintenance, and placing due trust and confidence in her. In other words, plain English, give her the respect she deserves. Support her, keep her safe, back her up. Enjoy talking with her, provide for her financially, and really, really build that trust with her. Proverbs 31:28:29 also says it like this. Her children arise up and call her blessed, her husband also as he praiseth her. Verse 29, many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Your words and deeds should honor your wife. That's another way of putting it.

All throughout scripture, honor your physical differences. Verse seven, instructs husbands to show honor to the woman as the weaker vessel. You see that in that clause? As the weaker vessel that So now we're going general. So now instead of focusing specific on the word wife, we're now expanding it out to woman. Woman generally speaking is of this weaker vessel. But let me explain. Peter does not specify in what way women are weaker than men. But we can rule out several wrong conclusions. That's that is what I'm going to do. Women are not weaker intellectually. We live in a country where women are more educated than men. Actually,

interesting enough. Women are not weaker emotionally. We can draw up that conclusion. Women may express their feelings more than men actually. But that's not the sign of weakness. Being emotional is not being weak. Women are not weaker spiritually above all. The following clause of this verse makes it clear. Look at that for with you with me. that husbands and wives are heirs together of the grace of life in Christ.

Another way of putting it is this word vessel is the feminine one. That's the context of this word. A weaker vessel is the feminine one. So now you understand this a little bit in greater clarity because man God made man masculine and women feminine. Is there anything wrong with that? Can I hear an amen? God created man masculine and women feminine. Doesn't matter what surgery is done, the man is still masculine, the woman is still feminine. We saw some of that in sports, haven't we? recently. Biblical truth is the absolute truth. The word of God says God created them male and female. Marriage also is God's idea. The Lord established marriage as a lifelong union between one man and one woman. And that covenant relationship, the husband is to honor the wife, his wife as the weaker vessel, as the feminine one. That's how you are to know this part of the verse. So all generally speaking, right, women are feminine.

Let's look at more in this verse. Verse seven, teaches men to practice chivalry. Shivery. No, no man should ever put in any circumstances harm to his wife. There should be no abuse of all any sort. Colossians 3:19 again says, "Husbands, love your wives and be not bitter against them." You see, the root of bitterness is a deadly deadly thing. If you can go to the source of all physical abuse is the root of bitterness. And I'm just going to back in because I we'll be talking about it when I talk about the churches, but I'll tell you the rarness in churches is what causes a lot of problems in church as well. Remember I had talked about the family is a germ of the state. So let us not do any of that. Amen.

Because the Christian life is all about life transformation. The gospel is all about change. Amen. He changes us from the inside out. So when bitterness comes, we know it's there as the Holy Spirit brings that conviction before it even takes and allows it to grow. And that's why he talks about bitterness is the root problem. The abuse is there. when it comes it's already too late. And as a pastor that is what I am to look for and that is what as a husband and wives are supposed to look for. Amen.

So honor your your wife as equal spiritually. Verse 7 says as being hes together of the grace of life. Men and women were created to be gloriously different. Gloriously different. Masculine, feminine has so many different qualities when it comes to it. But let me just go back to Genesis 1:27 says this. So God created man in his own image. In the image of God created him. He him male and female created he them. Man and woman are mutually created in God's image. I often refer to this verse because whenever I'm in evangelism, I don't look at the exterior. I look at what did God do.

But from the very beginning, his plan was to create every man and woman in his image. And whenever you see a distortion of that, it's a distortion on his image. And as a as a husband, we would not want to have any distortion of his image. Amen. So the fall when sin was initiated, the battle began is distorting the image of God. The feminine becoming the masculine, the masculine, the femin, the male and the female getting it all wrong. Who's the head again? Who's supposed to lead? What is my responsibility? What am I supposed to do here? We saw that

dynamic, didn't we, back in Genesis. I'm not going to go into it now, but it's a distortion of his image. And thank God he has given us clarity. Amen. Through the gospel, through what Jesus has done to us and transformed us from the inside out and brought us back to know what this really means by the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 3:28 puts it this way. There is neither Jew nor Greek. There is neither bond nor free. There is neither male nor female. For we are all one in Christ Jesus. The New Testament teaches male headship in the home and in the church. It's very plain and very clear that we are to be existing as partners co-eternal, coexistent, co-equal with God the Father. That is what this part of the clause is referring to. But submission does not make men superior or in women inferior as well. Let me point that out. Husbands and wives are that's this is how it clarifies that point. We're co-airs. We we receive the same thing, the same inheritance. That's what co-air means. You don't get more, you don't get less. It's not that. We're all equally co-airs of the grace of life because grace is abundant. Amen. There is abundant grace for both man and woman. The throne of grace offered to all as believers. So husbands should honor their wives as daughters of God to be reminded that yes this is my wife but this is also the daughter of God that I have been entrusted to take care of to steward in this life as co-airs. That is a responsibility of the man in the home. It's important to remember that we are saved by grace. We are sanctified by grace. We are strengthened by grace. We are servants by grace. And we are secure by grace. That is the grace of life.

Let's unpack. Let me just share Ecclesiastes 9:9. There is a joy to this. There is weight I've been sharing, but there's also joy. Peter appeals the husband to love their wives, right? Based on our common salvation, the heirs of the grace of life. But this has a joyful aspect of it, too. Ecclesiastes puts it this way. lived joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity which he hath given thee under the sun all the days of thy vanity but for that is thy portion in this life and in thy labor which thou takest under the sun. So Solomon concludes here that all of life is vanity. Yes, for sure. But you are to live and work and die in this way. He asserts that this vain life becomes meaningful if you love your wife. There's a condition. It won't feel as vanity of vanities when you make much of loving your wife.

Final point, pray for your wife. 1 Peter 3:7, "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, give honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered." So, this closing clause of this verse is a warning that assumes husbands are praying men. That's the assumption here. You're praying, but something's going on. Your prayer life should be strong enough that you make a threat to the devil. But something has happened where you're no longer a threat because it's this prayer life that has there's some hindrance here. So you stop loving your wife that's a hindrance. You stop praying for your wife or you pray less for your wife and you start dwindling and dwindling.

And the mystery of this of this is that do you see unanswered prayers? That's what hindrance leads to. Unanswered prayers. That's scary, isn't it? That's dangerous place to be. Man, we have spiritual battles that are to be won on a daily basis at the forefront of the head of the house. And one way we can lose is our by the root problem is that your prayer life is hindered. That word hindered means hindered, by the way. Can't get away from that. Something is dangerously wrong. There's nothing around that. And here here's the military reference. There

was a military term that describes soldiers cutting off a road to prevent the enemy from advancing. Satan's forces and his schemes is to hinder you in your prayer life. Are you doing the enemy's work for him? Are you allowing him to advance into you and into your wife and into your children if you have some? It's that hindrance. You're allowing him to come in.

Again, that protection. The husband is to protect. In what way? Spiritually, primarily, don't let the enemy come in. Don't let the enemy come in. And it's by your knowledge of your wife. Keep loving your wife. Keep wanting to know her more and more and more in an understanding way. And your prayer life will continue to blossom. continue to protect and provide a hedge around the family unit because if you don't, you will find it very hard to pray for your wife and you will find it hard to pray to God with your wife if you do pray with your wife. So, how you treat your wife can hinder the power of prayer. Maintain your daily prayer time with the Lord. Maintain it. Make it a non-negotiable. That's my cry to you. Make it a nonnegotiable.

You must pray. You must pray. You must win the spiritual battle for you and your family. that is your influence to you and your family. Let those words give you more encouragement to love, to honor, to know your wife and pray for her. Let's pray. Father, thank you so much for this time together. Lord, it's a it's a heavy instructions, but it's all important. Lord, we want to take this seriously. We want to take your word seriously because it's life or death in the spiritual realm. And it's whether we love our wives or don't love our wives. It's a matter of honoring her or dishonoring her. so much wisdom that I've yet to mention. But Lord, I just pray that you would use these words, your words to bring the weight of your word, the glory of your presence when prayer is heard and answered. And that joy of unspeakable when it does happen and when there's real love, Christlike kind of love towards our wife and we know our wives and the way you know her almost. Lord, we won't know you the way you know each one of us, but Lord, we want to make a good attempt at that. And so, Father, I pray that you would bless and honor our godly Christian husbands as well as our godly Christian wives amongst us. Blessed to that end, Father, that we may give all the glory back to you for the answers and all the strength that you give for us to follow your word. Bless us now as we depart in Jesus name. Amen.