

SOJOURNERS AND STRANGERS

1 PETER 3:7 | HONOR YOUR WIFE

There was a counselor who was helping a couple through marriage counseling, and the marriage was falling apart because of the husband's cold heart toward his wife, due to his interest in other women. Through a series of questions, it seemed that the husband did not have much of an interest or knowledge of his wife.

The counselor asked, "John, do you understand Elizabeth?"

John replied, "Understand her? I hardly even know her, much less understand her. You know, it seems that no man can ever understand a woman."

The counselor replied, "Well, perhaps more than one woman is too much for you to understand, but God has commanded you to understand one – *your* woman."

Could it be that many marriage difficulties arise from a neglect of husbands seeking to live with their wives "according to knowledge?" The potential sin is that husbands can live with their wives according to ignorance rather than knowledge. Husbands can be knowledgeable in fixing cars, hunting, building things, their occupation, or any number of things. But God does not call us to know other things so much to the very neglect of their own wives. Rather, they are to honor their wives by knowing them well.

Let's see how Peter exhorts husbands to know and honor their wives.

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1. 1 PETER 3:7. What is something the Lord highlighted to you this morning from the message? Any thoughts or questions?

2. UNDERSTANDING. What did Peter mean by “live with your wives in an understanding way?” What were three perspectives? What are aspects of each perspective that helps husbands obey this command?

3. HONOR. What In what way can husbands show honor to their wives? Wives, what are some things you can think of that demonstrate that your husbands honors you?

4. HEIRS. In each of the previous “be subject to” commands, one part is to submit to another. What is the basis for calling the husbands to honor their wives? How could this apply to others (children, subordinates at work, ect.)?

5. HINDERED. What does it mean that husbands who fail to honor their wives have their prayers “hindered?” What are some potential consequences of husbands prayers being hindered?

6. PRAY. How can we pray for husbands to live with their wives according to knowledge, honor them as co-heirs to eternal life, so that husbands’ prayers are not hindered?