

Different Husbands Too

TALK IT OVER

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

Key Scripture

1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. 3 Your adornment must not be merely external-braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; 4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; 6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear. 7 You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered. 1 Peter 3:7

Key Points: Peter makes this point two ways, one with wives, one with husbands.

1. Your marriage is a platform for proclaiming Christ.
2. Your marriage is a partnership for growing in grace.

Big Idea: Marriage is reflection of our understanding of the gospel. As such, husbands have a responsibility to love and honor their wives in response to the gospel and the sake of their ministry.

Understanding the Text.

- What are the responsibilities of the husband toward his wife?
- What does it mean that the woman is a weaker vessel?
- Think through the idea of being heirs of the grace of life?
- How does this passage support the idea that men and women are equal but different?
- What effect does a man's behavior and attitude have on his ministry?

Bringing it Home.

- Husbands: where do you need to grow in your understanding of your wife?
- How does your behavior preach the gospel to your wife and others?
- What does showing honor to your wife look like?
- How does your answer to that question differ from your wife's?
- What does it look like to treat your spouse as an —heir with you of the grace of life?
- How does your attitude and behavior affect your prayer life and ministry?
- How does the way you treat your wife reveal your relationship with Jesus?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power.

I bring my wife before you today asking that you would bless her and shape her into the woman she was designed to be. Help her to see her worth and her beauty the way that I do. Bring good friends into her life. Women she can laugh with, women who encourage her, and women who are there when she needs good advice. Develop her talents and show me ways that I might encourage and nurture her interests. Give her the wisdom and strength to balance her time, and show me the ways I might help her. Grant her the patience and understanding she needs to love me the way that she should. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Husbands, in what ways can you study your wife?
- Tell your group or someone in your group at least one thing you're going to stop so you can live differently.
- Being different isn't just subtraction—it's also addition. What good, godly things can you add to your week?

Dinner Discussion. How does a husband go about understanding his wife? Peter says that when someone is stronger than another person it is a sin for the stronger person to bully and push around the weaker person. Sometimes men sin terribly by pushing around and bullying their wives and children just because they are not as strong and tough.

- How should we treat someone who is weaker (e.g., younger children)? We should love and protect them and not push them around or bully them.
- What kinds of things do bullies do?
- Is there anyone that you sometimes bully? If so, explain.
- Is there anyone who sometimes bullies you? If so, explain.

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over online.

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