

## **Principles for a Healthy Marriage**

Peter's instructions of submission for husbands and wives

### **Introduction: Priming the pump for tonight's discussion.**

- Let's begin with our own observations. Was there a moment where God spoke to you, showed you something new, or reminded you of a familiar truth through the message this week?

### **Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.**

1. Our study on Sunday focussed on husbands and wives demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit in our marriages. As a reminder, the fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23 are: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. As we walk in the Spirit, not in the flesh, these qualities are shown out in our lives more and more. How would these qualities promote a healthy marriage, and how would the works of the flesh in Galatians 6:19-21 hinder health in any relationship?
2. Peter encouraged Christian wives to put themselves under the rank of their husbands for the sake of Jesus. We learned that walking with Jesus means walking out His will in every area in our lives, which includes yielding to the order that God has ordained in the Christian home. However, Christian husbands were admonished to give their wives the honor of having the superior rank. In other words, the husband has the position of a higher rank, but the wife is to be treated with the honor that comes with the higher rank. How does this principle challenge some of the points of view that you have heard in the church, or in the community at large about leadership in a Christian home?
3. We learned that some of the women who first received Peter's letter were married to unbelieving husbands. Peter encouraged the wives to submit to their husbands even if they were not godly men, and noted that the witness of a godly wife could win a husband to Christ without a word. Isn't this true in all of our relationships with unbelievers? If we live for Christ, certainly they will see a witness in us. With this in mind, let's discuss our calling to walk with Christ and to be a witness among the lost...and the need to carefully preserve our witness in the world.
4. We learned that both a Christian husband and a Christian wife are co-equals in grace...both being inheritors of the grace of life. Because of this, husbands were prohibited from using their physical stature to dominate their wives. Likewise, they were warned that treating their wives poorly could hurt their walk with God, even prohibiting their prayers being heard by God. Instead, husbands should live out the "likewise"

clause, and treat their wife as a precious jewel from God. Ephesians 5:25 teaches husbands to love their wives like Jesus loved the church and gave His life for it. Let's discuss what this might look like practically in a marriage today.

**Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study:**

- 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- Ephesians 5:21-23
- Galatians 5:19-26
- Colossians 3:18-25

**Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?**

- Perhaps we've been challenged this week as husbands and wives to put on the principles of a healthy Christian marriage that Peter taught us in the scriptures. Is there an adjustment that you need to make in your approach to your marriage...and specifically, what changes is God calling YOU to make?
- As you make decisions about how God is leading you to be transformed in your marriage, there may be a need to apologize to your spouse. Would you make a commitment that where you have wronged your mate, that you will be humble enough to apologize?