

Strong Marriages For Tough Times

February 12, 2017

1 Peter 3:1-7 Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

I. Five Keys To A Strong Marriage In Tough Times

1. Relationships Are Spiritual

1 Peter 3:1 Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives

1 Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority:

A. Your relationships with others reveal the state of your relationship with God.

1 Peter 2:13-17 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

- Relationships do not happen in a vacuum.
- Your relationship with God has a direct affect on your relationship with others.

B. My relational inadequacies reveal my lack of sufficiency in God.

- My relational pride reveals my dependence on self.
- Marriage is a spiritual covenant not just a legal agreement.

2. Love Your Spouse For Heaven's Sake

1 Peter 3:1-2 Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

A. The way you live affects the state of your spouse's soul.

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

B. God's response to your needs is affected by your response to your spouse's needs.

- There is no human relationship with greater spiritual impact than that of marriage.
- Your earthly conduct has eternal consequences for yourself and others.

3. Beauty Is More Than Meets The Eye

1 Peter 3:3-4 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

A. It is a human tendency to equate beauty with appearance.

- Peter is not giving a prohibition but rather a clarification.

1 Timothy 2:8 Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing.

1 Timothy 2:9-10 I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

B. When you are the focus, life is blurry.

C. You are more than what you see in the mirror

- Appearance is external. Beauty is internal.
- Beauty has more to do with action and attitude than it does with appearance

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

- Value comes from who you are on the inside and not from what you look like on the outside.

1 Peter 3:5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves.

- True beauty never goes out of style

4. Actions Speak Louder Than Words

A. Instructions for Wives

1 Peter 3:5-6 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

- Ladies, help your husband lead your home.
- Ladies, partner with your husband in following God.
- Ladies, make respect your default mode.

B. Instruction for Husbands

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

- Men, become a student of your wife.
- Men, treasure your wife for her great value.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

1 Peter 3:8-12 Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, “Whoever would

love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

- Men, remember that your plus one is equal.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

C. Husband and wife are different in role but equal in value.

5. To Build A Happy Home You Must Have A Strong Foundation

- Your home will not stand if the foundation is not firm.