

How to Love Life & See Good Days

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

A. Slide2,3 Fostering Hope (tonight). Food Drive.

B. **Prayer:** Today is *Yom Kippur* (day of Atonement) the holiest day of the year in Judaism. *God has provided a way for humankind to come back into harmonious relation w/him.*

II. Slide4 **Intro:** *How to Love Life & See Good Days*

A. A familiar Mother Goose rhyme goes: *Pussy cat, Pussy cat, where have you been? - I've been to London to visit the Queen. Pussy cat, Pussy cat, what did you do there? I frightened a little mouse under the chair.* Really, that's it? A cat jumps a flight to the U.K. by itself, only to mess w/a mouse?

1. **But** just like that cat, *Christians sometimes settle for petty involvements, trivial pursuits, chasing mice. When we have the incredible opportunity to spend time with royalty ... with the King!*
2. Instead of remaining content with doing our *spiritual-minimum-daily-requirements*, we can instead **deepen our relationship with God** and *grow into maturity.*

B. **Jesus** had a high view of women during His ministry, setting an example for **the men of His time** to **follow.**

1. Take the time to **develop & maintain** a good marriage *is God's will.*

III. Slide5 **LOVING, CONSIDERATE HUSBANDS (7)** *Read just vs.7*

A. (7) msg, *The same goes for you husbands: Be good husbands to your wives. Honor them, delight in them. As women they lack some of your advantages. But in the new life of God's grace, you're equals. Treat your wives, then, as equals so your prayers don't run aground.*

IV. Slide6 **1) APPRECIATE HER AS DIFFERENT**

- A. **Live with your wives in an understanding way** - that is w/a real spiritual perception of **duty & relationship**. (*not, whats her fav ice-cream is*)
- B. **Live w/them** - is a *present active participle, be continually living together with*.
1. **Not** once or twice, **not** just as newlyweds, **not** occasionally; **but continual ongoing, all the time, for all our married days, until death do we part** living together.
 2. It's too easy to substitute making a good living **or** providing physical/material needs for the family. **Rather than** sharing *their time, their words, their feelings*.
 - a) A friend from church reminded me what I said to him while in counseling. He explained he went through a whole list of what he was providing for his wife & family: *I work hard, I bring home the bacon, I provide for my family, I protect my wife, I provide a home to live in, etc.* He later told me I asked him, *"Then, whats the difference between you & an Ape?"*
 - (1) **But** it's true, a lot of the animal kingdom does the same. *A male seahorse even goes as far as accepting the females eggs in his pouch, fertilizes them, gives birth to them* (avg. 100-200; but can be as hi as 2000 babies).
 - (2) **The Emperor Penguin**: After the mother lays the egg, *her nutrition levels are diminished and she must replenish them by feeding in the ocean for 2 months*. While the mother is gone, **the father** holds the egg cautiously between the tops of his feet and his brooding pouch to keep the egg warm through the freezing Antarctic weather. During these 2 months, the father starves himself to prevent anything from happening to the egg. If the egg becomes exposed to the harsh temperatures **or** the father moves suddenly, the chick will perish. **Therefore**, the father's sacrifice, dedication and balance ultimately ensures the survival of the chicks. **What a dad!**
- C. **W/understanding** - in accordance w/the things he should know. **Information that is crucial**.

1. Remember, *love your wives* in the 1st century meant ... *what?* Peter seeks to walk the husbands through, what it means to *this culture of men who looked down on their wives*.

D. *Any understanding way* that would be beneficial to the husband-wife relationship.

1. Understanding her strengths & weaknesses: in the phys, emotional, & sp realm.

2. *This only comes by regular study of Gods word & regular study of your wife. Unhurried times* of private fellowship w/her.

3. *Husbands do you know what mothering 3 children* requires of her? Do you know the pressure of working full time, then coming home & working full time (w/a husband & children)?

E. *The cruelty which is hardest to bear is often not deliberate but the product of sheer thoughtlessness. Ouch*

V. SlideX 2) HONOR HER AS PRECIOUS

A. *Honor* - Edmund Clowney said, *respect is not strong enough*. This is, one highly respected or revered. Peter uses this Gk word 3 other x's (1:7, 2:7, 3:7; 2 Pet.1:4).

1. *τιμή* (TeeMAY) - *honor or preciousness. Showing preciousness to the woman as the weaker vessel*.

2. *See*, a husband who is *far removed* probably will have *little honor to offer*. A husband who is *generally proud* will *not appreciate his wife*.

3. The actor/comedian *Tim Allen*, when asked what makes a perfect dad said, *"Dad needs to show an incredible amount of respect and humor and friendship toward his mate so the kids understand their parents are sexy, they're fun, they do things together, they're best friends. Kids learn by example. If I respect Mom, they're going to respect Mom."*

B. *Weaker vessel* - a useful fragile delicate container or instrument.

1. Probably refers to *physical build and strength*. *Such a contrast was obvious in a labor-intensive culture*.

a) * Wives *may or may not be weaker* than their husbands in some way, **but** this is not Peter's point in this passage.

2. The context does **not** suggest any *spiritual, intellectual, or moral* inferiority since both males and females were *created in the image of God*.

3. This is a call to **gentleness** husbands, to handle her **carefully**.

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

4. **Key:** Don't take advantage of any kind of *weakness*.

a) If you've been married for more than **a day**, you've been able to find where your spouse is *weak*. **And** you can **exploit that** (in every fight) **or protect that**.

5. **Resolve?** Get **closer to** their weakness like **Jesus**, not try to get away from it.

C. Martin Luther, *The Christian is supposed to love his neighbor, and since his wife is his nearest neighbor, she should be his deepest love.*

VI. Slide X 3) **WALK WITH HER AS PARTNERS** *How to honor her continues ...*

A. **Fellow heirs of the grace of Christ** - wives today too, are *spiritually equal* to their husbands. *Equal in spiritual privilege & eternal importance.*

B. **Prayers hindered** - married life & fellowship are intended as a help, *not a hindrance* to spiritual progress. To fail in this area will result in an *ineffective prayer life*.

1. **Thus**, not living w/your wife in a way that pleases God is a very serious offense to Him.

C. The hindering of prayers is a form of God's *fatherly discipline*.

1. He **does not stop loving us**, **but** He is apparently not interested in **communing w/us about other things**, when such **serious sin** is going on.

a) Here's what I mean, in Mt.5 if a believer is **worshiping God & remembers he wronged someone**, Jesus says go immediately & deal with it, **then come back to worship**.

D. Take the time to **develop & maintain** a good marriage is God's will.

1. **Observe her. Learn her. Ask her questions. Experience her world.**

2. Don't look for your **rights**, look for your **role**.

3. **Spiritual growth** is the **main theme**, **marriage** is simply the **context**.

E. Paul Simon wrote the best selling song, *Fifty Ways to Leave Your Lover*. But a Christian needs just **1 reason to stay with his/her lover** ... and it's the analogy of *Christ and His Church*.

F. **Husbands**, you are married to a **fallen** woman in a **broken** world. **Wives**, you are married to a **sinful** man in a **fragmented** world. It is guaranteed that your spouse will sin against you, disappoint you, & have physical limitations that will frustrate and sadden you.

1. If you can't **respect** this spouse because he/she is prone to certain weaknesses, you will never be able to **respect** any spouse.

2. **Jesus**, the only perfect human being to live on this earth, moved toward sinful people; He asks **us** to do the same, beginning w/the one closest to us ... *our spouse*.

VII.SlideX **LIVING IN HARMONY (8-12)** *Read*

A. (8) **Finally** - to sum up, the end, the conclusion. **Not** that he's wrapping up the letter **but** summing up, *concerning attitudes and actions*.

B. (9) **Bless** - *How?* well in the next 3 verses Peter quotes **Psa 34:12-16** to emphasize his point that believers are called to be a **blessing** to the world.

1. Believers are meant to **live** the words of this psalm *through their long-suffering*, **so that** the evil of the world may be gradually **changed**.

C. En route to *spiritual maturity* we all spill our milk, say things we shouldn't, & fail to act our age. Sometimes we throw temper tantrums like toddlers, or pout like preschoolers, or argue & complain like teens. All the while we should be conducting ourselves as mature believers, setting an example to those younger in the faith.¹

1. **Are you just growing old, or actually growing up?**

2. **Here Peter gives us another measuring rod for spiritual growth.** (checkpoints)

¹ Charles Swindoll, James, 1 & 2 Peter, pg.194.

- D.(10-11) Its our duty to **enjoy** the Christian life, *not feel weary of it*. **Not material prosperity but spiritual satisfaction.**
- E. **Whoever desire to love life** - written in a way that shows that such a **life is possible**.
1. But wait, didn't Jesus say, *He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life*. **Yes**, but the difference is *not putting your physical life above your spiritual life*.
- F. This Psalm gives us the answers to the question in vs.10.
1. **Control your tongue & lips (13). Turn away from evil & do good (14a). Seek peace & pursue it (14b). Trust the Lord because He's watching you & His ears are open to their cry (15). [speech, action, purpose]**
 - a) He's **watching** you (He's attentive to your situation) **and** He's **listening** to you (He's attentive to your cry).
- G.Maybe in the end God will ask us (from *Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat*)
*You Christian, you Christian, **where have you been?** - You Christian, you Christian, **what did you do there?** What will we answer?*
- H.Keywords: husbands, love, appreciate, relationship, understanding, honor, weaker vessel, harmony.