

# **“Submission in Marriage for Husbands”**

## **1 Peter 3:7**

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### **I. Introduction**

\* Peter Marshall- *“Marriage is not a federation of two sovereign states. It’s a union of domestic, social, spiritual and physical. It is a fusion of two lives, the coming together of two tributaries, which after being joined in marriage, will flow in the same direction, carrying the same burdens of responsibility and obligation.”*

- A. Marriage is God’s idea.
  - 1. “Therefore shall a man leave...and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24).
  - 2. “So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate” (Matthew 19:6).
- B. The two (man and wife) are male and female.
  - 1. (Matthew 19:4)
  - 2. Each has a duty, function, or role.
- C. The wife’s duty (1 Peter 3:1-6)
  - 1. Her behavior (submission) (vv. 1-2)
  - 2. Her beauty (spiritual) (vv. 3-4)
  - 3. Her belief (trust in God) (vv. 5-6)
- D. Now, Peter gives instructions to the husbands (v. 7)
  - 1. Three responsibilities of the husband

### **II. Love Your Wife Sincerely**

\* “Husbands love your wives” (Ephesians 5:25). It’s agape love. It means that you love her:

- A. Unconditionally
  - 1. “As Christ also loved the church”
- B. Sacrificially
  - 1. “and gave Himself for her”
- C. Sanctifying
  - 1. (Ephesians 5:26)
- D. Affectionately
  - 1. (v.29) “nourish and cherish”
- E. Exclusively
  - 1. (v.31) “for this cause shall a man leave”

### III. Dwell with Your Wife Understandingly

- A. “Likewise you husbands dwell with them according to the knowledge...” (v. 7)
  - 1. “Likewise” or “in the same way”
    - a) “Submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of God” (Ephesians 5:21)
    - b) The same Holy Spirit that makes a wife “meek and quiet” (v. 4) would make the husband “kind and considerate” (v. 7)
    - c) The key is to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)
- B. “Dwell with them” (v. 7)
  - 1. It’s a good idea for married couples to live together.
  - 2. It is much more than simply sharing the same address. The compound verb “dwell with” occurs only here in the New Testament. It has a general and specific meaning.
    - a) The general meaning
      - 1) It’s to “live with” or “be at home with.”
      - 2) The idea is to make a life together.
      - 3) The husband is to be the head of the family and to love and lead. He should be a provider and a protector.
      - 4) Too many husbands are not home enough to love and lead their families.
      - 5) Some are home, but they are not really home. Their focus is on their work or other things. Their marriage and family are not a priority.
    - b) The specific meaning
      - 1) Some New Testament scholars see the phrase “dwell with” as a euphemism for sexual relations.
      - 2) It’s the “one flesh”
        - a. (1 Corinthians 7:1-6)
        - b. (1 Timothy 3:2)
  - 3. How are husbands to dwell with their wives?
    - a) “according to knowledge” (v. 7)
      - 1) In an understanding way
      - 2) It’s physical
      - 3) It is also intellectual (understand them)
        - a. Charles Swindoll- “*The success of your dwelling with your wife is in direct proportion to your knowledge of her.*”
        - b. *It carries the idea of “to be considerate.”*
        - c. Husbands often don’t realize before it’s too late that they are not being considerate of their wives.

- i. Her likes and dislikes
- ii. Her feelings
- iii. Her fears
- iv. Her cares
- v. Her expectations

## **IV. Honor Your Wife Highly**

### **A. “Giving honor unto the wife” (v. 7b)**

1. It’s to “assign a great price.”
2. Same as (v. 4) “great price”
  - a) Husbands, do you assign great value to your wife?
  - b) If so, tell her and treat her like she is valuable (it’s emotional)
3. Allistair Begg- *“There is no more precious gift entrusted to a man than the treasure of his wife. She is to be admired and prized above all others. She is to have first place in his heart, mind and affections.”*
4. Don’t take your wife for granted.
  - a) How? By words and actions
    - i. Tell her
    - ii. Show her
5. Husbands, do you
  - a) Love your wife sincerely?
  - b) Dwell with your wife understandingly?
  - c) Honor your wife highly?

## **V. Three Reasons to Love, Dwell, and Honor Your Wife**

### **A. Your wife is the weaker vessel (v. 7)**

1. It’s comparative (weaker)
2. In what way is she weaker?
  - a) Physically
  - b) Positionally

- 1) Her submission
- 2) Don't take advantage of her position in submission
- 3) The marriage duties are reciprocal

B. "You are heirs together of the grace of life" (v. 7)

1. Same Savior and Lord
2. Same grace
3. The same life of God
  - a) It's the spiritual dimension
  - b) She's your sister in Christ
  - c) She's a child of God

C. "That your prayers be not hindered" (v. 7)

1. Peter assumes that husbands and wives would pray together
  - a) Satan wants to keep you from prayer
2. A reason God won't answer prayer
3. You can't be right with God if you are wrong with your wife
  - a) Jesus said, "Leave your gift at the altar."