

Dwell with Your Wife

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the key words in this verse which give instructions to husbands.
2. "Ye husbands, in like manner, dwell with your wives according to knowledge, giving honor unto the woman, as unto the weaker vessel, as being joint-heirs of the grace of life; to the end that your prayers be not hindered." I Pet. 3:7 asv
3. Christian homes
 - a. A husband and wife are to be joined together in a beautiful unity of love.
 - b. Many times it is not this way
 - c. It is often the case that the husband does not do as God planned and directed:
 - (1) He lacks common sense in living with his wife
 - (2) He lacks Biblical directions about how to treat his wife
 - d. This verse by Peter gives instruction about "how it should be" - It could be called "God's Marriage Manual"

Discussion

I. HUSBANDS

- A. Several admonitions given in the Bible to husbands: [paraphrased]
 1. Husbands leave father and mother, cleave to your wife and the two of you are to become one flesh - Mt. 19:5
 - a. Leave
 - b. Cleave
 - c. Become one

2. Husbands love your wife just like Christ loved the church - Eph. 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;"
 - a. Love your wife
 - b. Like Christ loved the church
 - c. Gave himself for it
 3. Husbands do not be bitter or harsh with your wife, but love them - Col. 3:19
 "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." = Harsh
 - a. Positive - love
 - b. Negative - do not be bitter - never treat them harshly
 4. Husbands render due benevolence to your wife - I Cor. 7:3 MKJV "Let the husband give to the wife proper kindness, and likewise the wife also to the husband."
 - a. Render - give
 - b. Benevolence
 5. Husbands, dwell with your wife according to knowledge - I Pet. 3:7
- B. A Man who enters into marriage is a Husband first - a right relationship with God involves being a good husband

II. DWELL

- A. There is to be a dwelling with our wife. A husband raises the level of his house to a dwelling by:
 1. Dwell - from a word that denotes domestic association
 2. Recognizing the importance of his role, as a husband
 3. Finding fulfillment in his responsibilities as a husband

4. Setting aside time for his wife as a husband - Stay at Home!
 5. Helping his wife grow spiritually
- B. A husband needs to continue to learn about being a husband

III. KNOWLEDGE

- A. Good husbands do not just “happen”
1. They become good husbands by knowledge
 2. Survey's reveal that men do not read as much as women
- B. But men need to study to be a good husband: understand the marital relationship
1. Study the Bible
 - a. Any passage in the Bible that applies to human relations applies to husbands
 - b. Mt. 7:12 Golden Rule - “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”
 - c. Eph. 4:32 “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”
 - d. A practice of these truths will help solve many problems with husbands
 2. Study good books
 - a. Thomas B. Warren has written several good books about marriage - “Marriage is for those who love God and one another” “Your marriage can be great”
 - b. In the first book he has a chapter about “Your marriage can be a success” — he listed several things for husbands:
 - (1) Gain the right conception of marriage
 - (2) Learn about the emotional and psychological differences between men and women

(3) These good books and others like them can help husbands to gain knowledge which will help them to be a good husband.

- C. Husbands must read and study about what it means to be a good husband for we are to dwell with our wife according to knowledge.
1. Know your wife
 2. Learn of her ways, what she likes and dislikes, what she stands for

IV. HONOR

- A. A husband should honor his wife because God has instructed us: "Giving honor unto the wife"
1. "Giving" = to assign, to apportion
 2. "Honor" = precious
 - a. 1 Pet. 1:19 - same word as precious
 - b. Regard your wife as precious
 - c. Adam said "She is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh." Gen. 2:23
 - d. Is your wife precious to you? Do you tell her by words and deeds? Do you feel that her price is truly above rubies (Pro. 31:10)? Let her know!!
- B. How can a husband honor his wife? He can honor her by:
1. Thinking of her constantly
 2. Wanting her as a "friend"
 3. Wanting to please her
 4. Wanting to give her gifts.
 5. Accepting her relatives and her friends

6. Putting his trust in her
 7. By talking to her about his successes and his failures
 8. Being concerned about his appearance and his actions
 9. Involving her in his present plans
 10. Involving her in his future plans
- C. This is saying to your wife loud and clear “you are the one I n my life”. This is honoring her.

V. VESSEL

- A. Husbands are to recognize that the wife is the “weaker vessel”
1. He is a vessel to be used in God's service
 2. She is a vessel in God's service
 3. She is physically weaker
- B. How can a husband care for the “weaker vessel”?
1. He can provide, for her
 2. He can protect her
 3. He can be proud of her
 4. He can hold her when she cries
 5. He can vow he will never lay a hand on her except in love

- C. A husband who honors his wife as the “weaker vessel” recognizes that they are “joint-heirs of the grace of life”
 - 1. The holy purpose of married life is to Serve God together
 - 2. A Christian marriage is two people living for each other and for God.
- D. A Christian husband understands that he and his wife are equals before Christ but they have different roles.
- E. This verse does not teach “superiority” but support for the “weaker vessel”.

VI. PRAYERS

- A. Husbands are to follow this advice of God lest their prayers be hindered or cut off - to interrupt.
- B. Two ideas are suggested in this thought which reveal that an unworthy husband destroys the spiritual development of the home:
 - 1. God hears those who hear him:
 - a. Suppose a husband: refuses to acquire knowledge refuses to honor his wife
refuses to provide for her refuses to protect her refuses to love her
 - b. This man is not listening to God!
 - c. Who does the Lord Hear? — Five verses later - v. 12 - “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.” 1 Pet. 3:12
 - d. Peter is saying - if you mistreat your wife, if you do not honor her - then you will be cut off from God. God will not hear your prayers - they will be interrupted

2. A man who does not follow God's instructions is not interested in prayer
 - a. We need prayers in our homes
 - b. Husbands should lead the way in this.

CONCLUSION

1. "Ye husbands, in like manner, dwell with your wives according to knowledge, giving honor unto the woman, as unto the weaker vessel, as being joint-heirs of the grace of life; to the end that your prayers be not hindered." I Pet. 3:7 asv
2. A good Christian man is a good husband .
 - a. Good men have access to God
 - b. Good husbands make good homes and good churches
3. Husbands look to God and his Word:
 - (1) Dwell
 - (2) Learn how to be a good husband
 - (3) Honor your wife by the way you treat her
 - (4) And then your prayers will be heard.
4. Husbands who follow God's instructions are successful - your prayers are heard and you and your wife are "joint -heirs of the grace of life"
5. "...Rejoice with the wife of thy youth." Prov. 5:18b - to brighten up, cheer up be merry