

## *How We Should Treat our Wives*

### *1 Peter 3:7*

INTRO:

Many times we think domestic relationships, relationships between husbands and wives, are not vitally important to God. The Apostle Peter showed us that contrary to what we may think, our relationship to our wives or husbands is supremely important. God is concerned about our submission to Him. One place that submission is measured is in how we treat one another in the family unit.

#### *I. Pattern of submission*

#### *II. How to Treat Your Wives*

#### *III. Why We Should do This?*

#### *I. Pattern of submission*

A. Leading up to this verse in I Peter, Peter described a lifestyle that pleases God. It is a lifestyle of proper submission.

1. In **chapter 2 verses 13-17** called us to be subject to the law and those in secular authority over us for the Lord's sake.
2. In **verses 18-20** Peter commanded household servants to be submissive to their masters. Not just the good ones but the also the harsh. They are to do this in the fear of God.
3. **Verse 21-25**, we must do this because Jesus suffered for us and was an example of submission to His Father's will, and took away our sin.
4. Likewise, wives are to submit in the home for this same reason (**1 Peter 3:1-6**). The issue is not whether men are worth it. It is that this is God's plan.
5. Likewise Men are responsible for their love and treatment of their wives and their home.

#### *II. How to Treat Your Wives*

***“Husbands, likewise, dwell with [your wives] with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.” (1 Peter 3:7)***

A. We must choose to live as husbands to our wives choosing to love them. Almost without exceptions, marriages in the New Testament age were arranged marriages. Because this was true, it makes our obligation to love our wives and husbands take on a different

perspective. We do not love because we fell in love with them. Rather, we love them because we decide to love them. God Himself is our example in **Deuteronomy 7:7-8**.

***“The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”***

Just as God loved us because He chose to love us, we must choose to love the wife or husband God chose for each of us.

B. We must honor our wives. (v.7)

***“Husbands, likewise, dwell with [your wives] with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel.”***

Wives are not to be treated as property. Nor are they are to be treated as someone we can belittle or misuse. **Ephesians 5:25-27**

***“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”***

We must love our wives like the Lord Jesus Christ loved us. We must build them up, and help our wives become all that God intended them to be.

C. Finally, we must treat our wives as our spiritual equal. (v.7)

***“[Honor your wives] as being heirs together [with you] of the grace of life.”***

Remember God does not see wives as inferior to their male counterparts. They have different roles in the church and in the home, but they are not inferior. Paul reminds of our spiritual standing before the cross in **Galatians 3:28**.

***“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”***

### ***III. Why We Should Do This?***

A. We have already discovered that our relationship with our wives is tied directly to our relationship with our Lord. We love our wives because we love Him. Praise God, our wives love us because they love Christ.

B. There is a practical reason why we should be careful about our relationship with our wives. We need to love and treat our wives well because if we don't our prayers will be hindered. The word translated hinder means "to prevent" or "to interrupt." The reason our relationship with our wives is vital to our prayer life is because it reflects our relationship with Christ. **Psalm 66:18** says;

***“If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.”***

If we sin against our wives we sin against God.

C. How does this apply to us today? While our marriages are by in large not arranged marriages, we still are obligated as husbands to love our wives and to communicate that fact to them often and sincerely. Not only must we tell them we love them, we must show them in our lives by the honor we give them and the awareness that they are our spiritual partners on this pilgrimage to the Celestial City.