

## Husbands...

1 Peter 3:7

### **Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way,**

Some married men have multiple passions which they pursue, but all married men are called to make understanding their wives a lifelong pursuit. A husband should be a student of his own wife for as long as they share a home together. Peter chose to use “present active” words (both “living with” and “showing honor”) to make it clear that these are to be ongoing. (Technically, they are present active participles which function as imperatives.) Married men must do this on the regular.

Husband, you are married to “a person of the feminine kind” (a more literal translation of the word translated “wife”). She is different from you. You should not talk to her or treat her like you do one of your buddies. She’s of a different kind. She’s not like you or those other guys. Understand that.

Being an ongoing student of your wife takes place in the bedroom, not just the family room. In fact, the single Greek word translated as “live with” may have the bedroom as its emphasis. The Apostle Peter may be delicately telling husbands to be continuously sensitive and understanding of their own wives in this specific area of married life.

*Husband, are you prioritizing spending quality time with your wife? Are you working at listening to her when she shares? Do you remove distractions (turn off the screen, put down the phone, etc.) so that you can give your undivided attention to her? Are you committed to being a lifelong learner of the woman who is your bride?*

### **showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel,**

Notice the “er” in the word “weaker.” You’re both weak. You’re both earthly creatures with limited amounts of strength. But women, in general, are physically weaker than men. The only other use of this comparative form (“weaker”) in the NT is found in 1 Corinthians 12:22: “On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.” The Apostle Paul goes on to say this in 12:23: “and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor,” and the word for “honor” is the same as here in 3:7.

Both men and women are weak (see 1:24). We are all fragile, breakable “earthenware.” And although women can be strong and fearless (fearing nothing and no one but God himself—see 2:17 and 3:5-6), that is a strength of another sort (an inner strength). Women are weaker than men in some way. Peter doesn’t explain what he means by “weaker.” The obvious difference between men and women is the physical difference. On average, men are taller and stronger than women. But it is likely that Peter has more in mind than just those more obvious physical

differences (“men are bigger and stronger than women”). There may be other biological aspects of women that may make them weaker (and more vulnerable) than men during certain times of the month and during certain seasons of life, especially during the childbearing years.

*A husband should always use his superior strength to support, serve, and shield his wife, never to coerce, control, or hurt her in any way.*

Husband, your wife is God’s gift to you. “He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.” (Proverbs 18:22) You should value her highly. Your wife should be precious in your eyes (compare “honor” in 3:7 with “precious” [or “valuable”] in 2:4). Yes, she is not sinless or flawless, but she is precious. Do you see her that way? Do you treasure your bride?

“We don’t wonder enough at the wonder of our wives.”

“You should wake up in the morning, look over at your wife lying next to you, and then wonder how in the world she got there—how it is that such a wonderful woman is married to a guy like you.”

*Husband, how can you honor your wife at home and in public? How can you honor her in how you talk to her and in how you talk about her? How can you honor her in person and online? How can you “publicly express your private respect” for the woman you love? Holding doors open for her, carrying things for her, etc. are just a starting place. There’s so much more!*

**since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.**

A husband who mistreats his wife should not expect his prayers to be answered. God takes your relationship with your wife so seriously, that if you mistreat her, He won’t listen to you. It’s like your prayers just hit the ceiling and bounce back at you. (See “hindered” in Romans 15:22.) God is unavailable to you if you are unloving to your bride. As is the case elsewhere, including in what immediately follows (3:8-12), our fellowship with our Father is interrupted (blocked) when we are failing to love others.