

1 Peter - Week 13

Wedlock or Deadlock-(Husbands)

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. 8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. 11 He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." NIV

- The truth was this: Christian wives were experiencing a whole new situation in life. Up to this point they were not considered EQUALS, nor given respect for the roles God had given them.

Three Imperatives for Husbands

1. LIVE with your wife.

- That word does not mean any of this: exist or SURVIVE.
- Peter is calling men to a close TOGETHERNESS.
- Remember the goal to communication is a willingness to understand what we both THINK, feel, want, and are willing to do.
- Husbands, you need to know your wife's greatest need-- that you should be meeting.
- She needs you to LISTEN with your eyes, ears, and HEART.
Now here is the problem: how important is SMALL talk to women?
- Remember women, your husband's need is praise. Make him the SOLUTION, not the PROBLEM.
- The other style of communication is called STRAIGHT talk.

2. We are called to KNOW our wives.

- Remember big resentments come from small HURTS.
- Be CONSIDERATE, be courteous, be compassionate.
- Learn to watch your TONES.

3. Men are called to HONOR our wives.

- To see them as priceless, assign to them top priority in your SCHEDULE, in relationships, and in your heart.

Roles of a Husband:

1. You are called to be the HEAD of your house It doesn't mean DICTATOR or ruler. You are a PROTECTOR, a provider, a priest.
2. You are called to LOVE your wife.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT IS SUBMITTING TO GOD.

A husband has no right to forbid her to go to church at the proper and usual time, or to make a profession of religion when she pleases. He has no right to forbid her endeavoring to exercise a religious influence over her children, or to endeavor to lead them to God. She is bound to obey God, rather than any man. When even a husband interferes in such cases, and attempts to control her, he steps beyond his proper bounds, and invades the prerogative of God, and his authority ceases to be binding. We should be living our lives in mutual dependence on God and each other, not trying to control or to dominate each other.

Why are the roles so important yet so difficult?

- Roles are determined not by giftedness but by CALLING.
- The JOY you receive in life will be directly affected by the fulfilling of your God-given roles.
- CRITICISM of your mate will not make them fulfill their roles any faster.
- Fulfilling your roles will directly affect the TRAINING of your children.

Spiritual Inventory of the Home

- ✓ Are you PARTNERS or competitors?
- ✓ Are you helping each other to Christ-likeness or just CRITICAL when the other isn't?
- ✓ Are you focused on the externals or DEPENDENT on what is eternal?
- ✓ Are you learning to understand each other better or are you FLESHING out on each other with your tones?
- ✓ Are you SENSITIVE to each other's thoughts and feelings or are you just taking each other for granted?
- ✓ Are you seeing God answer your PRAYERS or are you too busy focusing on your circumstances to pray?
- ✓ Are you receiving JOY from God as you give joy to your mate or are you still focused on what you're not getting?
- ✓ Are you enriching the marriage through Christ-likeness or robbing the marriage with self-GRATIFICATION?

Final Thought

Will our life and marriage be a good advertisement to others, or will we live in SECRECY concerning our homes?