

Knowledgeable Husbanding

1 Peter 3:7a

Holman translation: *Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives with an understanding of their weaker nature*

Introduction and context for verse 3:7.

“In the same way”, refers back to 2:22-23 where Christ’s example of service and sacrifice is cited for the inspiration of husbands in their ministry to their wives.

What did Christ model for husbands?

Live for the glory of God as Christ did.

Endure (hardships) as Christ did.

And just as Christ lived to accomplish His redemptive mission, husbands are to live to promote the salvation and spiritual growth of their wives.

Peter does not use the term *submission*.

1. Christ-like Leadership Requires a Biblical Vision for your Family.

A. Husbands are responsible to lead

Imbedded in the word “live” (better--“dwell with”) is the idea of relationship direction. Genesis 2:7-8, 15-16

Adam was to be his wife’s life guide and she was to be her husband’s life partner.

Husbands are responsible to bring to their marriage *knowledgeable* leadership and direction.

God’s vision for marriage comes through active practice of what you are learning from Scripture.

B. Your wife is the partner God wanted you to have.

“your *female*”, speaks of a relationship in which husband and wife can become one in all the dimensions of life—thinking, affection, planning, and physical.

Genesis 2:18 God created wives to be their husband’s valuable partner.

2. Christ-like Leadership requires knowledge about your Wife

Understanding a wife’s weaker nature includes knowledge of your wife’s strengths and weaknesses in the physical, emotional and spiritual realms.

A. Most wives are Physically weaker than their husbands

Women and wives are said to be “weaker” in comparison to husbands, but one is not weaker in comparison to someone who has no weakness. Men have their weaknesses too.

If you use force to motivate your wife, there is something seriously wrong with you and your leadership.

B. Women are generally more emotionally sensitive than Men.

1) God designed women to be responsive to approval and affection.

“Understanding” means recognizing that most women are not built up by ridicule, sarcasm, and negative criticism.

Part of emotional sensitivity is the need of your wife to feel important and valued by you.

2) God designed women to be the primary nurturers in a family.

They are typically more tuned in to emotional needs of the family than husbands are.

C. God designed women to follow their husbands spiritually, not lead them. Genesis 3:12-14.

Satan knew that it was Eve’s nature to be a spiritual responder, not a spiritual leader. So he made his deceitful appeal to Eve and she received it and followed it. 1 Timothy 2:12-14

Question: what was Adam doing when Satan tempted his wife?

Answer: he was passive—failing to fulfil his responsibility to lead.

Women are built by God to be necessary spiritual partners, but not the spiritual leaders.

Conclusion:

A wise husband will take up the spiritual leadership of his marriage because his wife was designed to be a great follower, but not the leader.

Men, the way you cultivate a joyful and unified home is by dwelling with your wife with understanding of the way God designed her.

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