

Good morning, the Lord bless you and give you peace. We are in the final section of this teaching about authority and have moved from the implications of the biblical teaching towards wives to the implications towards men. What I love and hate about this content is that it meddles with the soul. Have you found that with the Bible before when it begins to apply to our daily lives the theology that it celebrates? I am reminded of some of the prophecies of Amos. Amos is being told by God to rebuke his audience because they were not living in light of what they knew to be true about God. At one point the king of Israel demanded that Amos stop prophesying and go to Judah and prophecy there. Now, as believers the Spirit of God graciously restrains us from cutting ourselves off completely from His truth, but that sense of exposure when the truth comes is still there. The beauty of the word of God is that it makes us uncomfortable for a moment so that we might be healed in those places that are broken or strained. I remember in high school I had a coach that was volunteering his time for the school. His profession was that he was a professional massage therapist. That might sound like a great combination, but there was never a time that his work on you felt good. In point of fact, it always hurt. But when he was done your muscles did what they were supposed to do. Everything felt normal. This is what the word does to us. It meddles with the soul to repair us. And there are fewer places where we feel that uncomfortable painful work the most like that of the marriage relationship.

So, we turn our attention to husbands, and we are met with the same beginning structure with which the Christian wife is admonished.

Since this has really been one long sermon that we've broken down into many, it may be helpful to remember that we began this series considering the basis for Peter's exhortation, and then moved to the details of Peter's exhortation.

The Basis for Peter's Exhortation continued:

### 3:7 "Likewise, husbands."

As we noted for the consideration of wives in the early section, the word "likewise" apprehends the same basis for which husbands are admonished. In other words, the "likewise" statement must be given in light of the [structure that has already been laid out](#). **Primary is that we are people of God by the provision of Christ's sacrifice.** Consequently, we have a different ethic than what we had before we were confronted with the glory of Christ in salvation. Therefore, we are called to display every aspect of God's character and nature that we are capable of.

But it is of **supreme importance to remember that Peter is speaking to Christian people**. It is important to remember that these admonitions are given to Christians **because it underscores the need for the power and presence of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the tasks that God wants us to fulfill, and to do so in the way He wants us to fulfill them**. The natural man does not understand the things of the Spirit, says Paul, neither can he know them for they are spiritually discerned. Herein is a biblical principle for all, especially in regard to the level of sacrificial commitment that God demands of all those who are in married relationships. **We need God's power to do God's work God's way.** That does not mean that non-believers are off the hook to obedience to God's direction. It simply underscores again how much we need God. We were dead in trespasses and sins and were enemies of God, as Paul tells us in Ephesians. We were part of corruptible and futile efforts, as Peter tells us in [chapter 1](#). But in God's mercy and through His providence we have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God ([1:23](#)). It also means that we need to show a level of mercy to those who have not been affected by the truth of God's word so that they turn from sin and are saved. Dear friends, as this culture turns more and more away from God you and I as Christians need to remember that the only reason that we don't also walk away is because of the beauty of Christ that has captured our hearts. It also teaches us that we have to be diligent in evangelism. How can we expect true change in a culture, change that truly reflects a transformed heart, when those that make up the culture do not know our Savior as their Savior? They have no power to truly live within the parameters of that Christian ethic. We live that way because of who God is, and because it becomes light for what God really intended in this relationship. If a woman can by her actions and Christian conduct win her unsaved

husband without a word, then our testimony as Christians will certainly stand as a boon for the presentation of the gospel. What does your marriage say about what you and I really believe? Oh, dear Christian brother or sister, do not be moved by the vehement rejection of biblical truth that seeks to minimize the truthfulness, beauty, and trustworthiness of scripture.

Peter is admonishing Christian people regarding how to function in this world in light of their salvation from sins, and he is teaching us how to hope in the midst of this world as we journey towards our heavenly home.

“**Likewise, husbands.**” Men are not off the hook before God regarding our responsibilities just because we are men. The Bible does not celebrate chauvinism, or machismo attitudes towards God’s daughters, nor is it silent regarding our responsibilities. Husbands are brought under this same scope of teaching which reaches for God’s holy character displayed in our lives. Considering this, it would be good to ask the question, what aspect of God’s holy character should we anticipate displaying within the context of the husband and wife relationship? This is an important question because it reaches back to the theology that has already been taught in Peter, and as Peter is in line with the teaching of scripture as a whole, it brings to bear the full spectrum of teaching in the Bible regarding husbands.

Let’s begin with a quick look into an obvious teaching on marriage as we consider the broader text of scripture. I am thinking of Paul’s teaching that husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church (**Ephesians 5**). Jesus sacrifices for His bride, He seeks her wellbeing and growth in inward and outward beauty, and He showers His church with kindness, gifts, and distinction. All of this is certainly upheld by Peter in this little verse, and especially within the broader teaching of his letter which focuses on the implications of Christ’s sacrifice. Jesus suffers greatly for His Church to display His own obedience towards God and to rescue His people. Peter reminds us that we will sometimes suffer for obedience to God’s direction. So, before we move forward, Christian brothers, what are you willing to suffer for the sake of your wife’s spiritual and physical health and flourishing? We are to reveal the nature of Christ’s love towards His church by loving our wives with such commitment.

But let’s consider how Peter begins his letter. In **verses 1-2** we read of God’s intentionality and planning that led to our salvation. It results in distinguishing Jesus sacrifices as a sacred action that not only saves us from sin, but gives us the power to display the holiness of God as His children. But just think about what had to happen for this salvation. For centuries before Christ’s birth, God the Father sent prophets and priests and kings to talk about the coming of His Son. When Jesus Christ was born into this world God sends angels to fill the sky and sing to shepherds of God’s anointed Shepherd of the Soul. God sent a star to lead distinguished men to worship His Son. And then when Jesus is finally prepared to enter into ministry, God declares His pleasure for His Son at His baptism. <sup>ESV</sup> **Matthew 3:17** “**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**” Later in Christ’s life, and moments not long before Christ’s passion, God declares to Peter, James, and John, what the gospels, and then Peter recounts in **2 Peter 1:17b**, “**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**” Finally, we are told in **Philippians** that **God is preparing at the consummation of His redemptive work to bring every knee into submission and worship towards His Son and that every tongue declare that Jesus is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.** Gentlemen, the first question we must ask ourselves is, are we willing to be the initiators of reconciliation and have we thought about it enough to know how to plan for it? Our salvation is not an after thought. We are known in Christ before the foundation of the world. Do we hold our spouse up with such high regard? Do we plan for ways in which we can encourage them and protect them? Are we that intentional to speak often and to speak consistently over time of our spouse? Do we look for ways to distinguish them? And then, are we faithful to keep Jesus before them as God has done for us? What kind of spiritual influence do we really pursue within the walls of our own home? These are terribly convicting questions for any man, but I can’t help but think of the joy and beauty of Christian marriages if we were to be more faithful to this level of commitment to our wives.

Now our flesh might be inclined to bring up that our spouse is not worthy of that kind of distinction. But then we have that pesky little problem of not having been worthy of Christ’s sacrifice. And here we find something of great importance regarding the nature of God. ***God does not change His character or stop functioning as God just because He is hated, rejected, and disobeyed.*** So, Christ upholds the universe by the word of His power even though He is

sent to the cross. The Father causes the rain to fall on the just and the unjust. In light of husband wife relationships, this ties in like this. Whether one's husband or one's wife is a Christian or even worthy of the kind of commitment that God is directing through Peter's pen is beside the point. We are faithful because God is faithful, [2 Timothy 2:13](#).

"Likewise, husbands!" What a force of teaching in such a small statement. Gentlemen, if you are not married just consider what God wants of you in this relationship. And those of us who are married, we will be held to this standard when we give account to God for how we have stewarded those things He has lent us. Will we be found faithful or wanting? Let us lean in to repentance for falling short, and let us rejoice that God has placed us in a position to display His marvelous light that brings joy to all who come under His power. Amen.