

Honor Your Wife

By David Wright

The apostle Peter urged Christian women to submit to their husbands (1 Pet. 3:1-6). He followed this inspired entreaty with an admonition for men: “Likewise you husbands, live considerately with your wives, bestowing honor on the woman as the weaker sex, since you are joint heirs of the grace of life” (v. 7).

How, exactly, does a husband obey this instruction? The text itself suggests that a man must recognize his wife’s equality. Being the “weaker sex” means that the average woman is more vulnerable physically than her male counterpart. Peter does not mean that a wife has a weaker mind or less personal worth. In fact, the Lord views the godly husband and wife as “joint heirs” of grace. Knowing this, the Christian man is to respect his partner’s opinions, needs, and feelings as highly as his own.

In addition, a man bestows honor on his wife by expressing gratitude. Solomon wrote that “house and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord” (Prov. 19:14). If a good wife is from God, then surely a Christian husband is to thank the Lord for her as he leads the family in prayer. A godly husband also thanks his wife directly and often for all the things she does for the household—buying groceries and cooking, washing and cleaning, paying bills and running errands. And he teaches his children to thank their mother for meals, rides to school or ball practice, and help with homework.

“Husbands, live considerately with your wives, bestowing honor on the woman as the weaker sex.” It’s great advice. Better than that, it is inspired counsel. Men who listen will enjoy happier homes.

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