



A Husband's High Calling

1 Peter 3:7

Study Guide

1. One of the first things to be noticed about 1 Peter 3:7 is the brevity of space given to the husbands in comparison to the wives. But this should not be misinterpreted. There were not necessarily more women than men in the congregations to which Peter is writing. "The length of a discussion is determined by the number of words an author thinks necessary to make his message clear, not by how many readers or listeners there may be!" (Wayne Grudem). The simplicity of Peter's words to the husbands is captured by what one word in this verse?
2. Husbands are to live with their wives in "an understanding way." Where would a husband gain the knowledge about his wife that is necessary? The wife is referred to as "a weaker vessel." Both men and women are referred to in the New Testament as vessels (Acts 9:15; Rom. 9:22). What is significant about this term? What are vessels (cups, dishes, Lk. 8:16) used for? It is of interest that Peter's word for "woman" is a rare one. It could be translated "wifely one" or "the feminine one." How does this fact enter into a husband's honoring of his wife?
3. In what way(s) is the woman "weaker" in comparison to the man (most men can overpower their wives physically)? Do you think this is limited to physical weakness? How can a husband honor his wife? What does Paul say about a husband's responsibility to his wife (Eph. 5:28-30)? Think of some ways in which a husband's physical strength and authority in the home can be of a benefit to the woman?
4. Husbands are reminded that their wives are "fellow heirs of God's gift of life." What would this mean if Peter is addressing Christian husbands whose wives were unsaved? What would it mean if the Christian husband's wife is a fellow believer (1 Cor. 11:2-3, 7-12; Eph. 5:22-33; Col. 3:18-19)? In what way does this kind of partnership in life relate to the husband's headship and the wife's responsibility to submit to her husband?
5. What kind of things could "interrupt" the Christian husband's fellowship with God ("prayers may not be hindered")? Relate this to the teaching regarding the discipline of the Lord in Hebrews 12:3-11.
6. One writer has suggested the illustration that the husband must be the "thermostat" in the home, setting the emotional and spiritual temperature, while the wife is often the "thermometer," letting him know what that temperature is! What are some indicators that a husband and wife have a good partnership and friendship? What are some ways a husband can be courteous to his wife (remember how it was during courtship)?