Homiletics 1 Jacob Ang #120

28 August 2008 Single Message

NASB 15 Minutes (length)

**The Model Husband,   
or  
Honey, Did You Hinder My Prayers?**

***1 Peter 3:7*** (Cyclical inductive)

# Introduction

### Interest: (Humour) A man was invited to some old friends' home for dinner. His buddy preceded every request to his wife by endearing terms, calling her Honey, My Love, Darling, Sweetheart, Pumpkin, etc. He was impressed since the couple had been married almost 60 years. While the wife was off in the kitchen, the guy said to his buddy, "I think it's wonderful that after all the years you've been married, you still call your wife those pet names." His buddy hung his head. "To tell you the truth, I forgot her name about ten years ago."

### Need: Is this the way a husband should honor his wife? Many times we appear to be honoring our wives outwardly for others to see but in reality, it is the opposite. Now for those of you who are husbands or husbands to be, this is a passage for you. For those who are ladies, you may want to look for a husband according to this passage’s standard. For those who are singles, and not intending to get married, I want you to listen and think of this implication in your life as well because God’s Word is relevant to all of us.

### Subject: Why must a husband be understanding towards his wife and honor her?

### Background: During Nero’s reign, the Christian believers were heavily persecuted. They were burned alive as torches to light Nero’s gardens at night. They were killed when Nero fed them to wild animals for public entertainment. Such is the time Peter wrote 1 Peter 3:7, commanding husbands to be understanding and honor their wives.

### Text: **1 Peter 3:7**

### Preview: Now let’s take a look at three reasons why husbands should relate with their wives rightly.

### Transition: The first reason a husband should understand his wife is:

# I. Husbands, understand your wife because *she is physically weaker* (7a)

## Peter wants believing husbands to live in an understanding way with their wives, knowing that their wives are not less capable but just physically weaker.

## Husbands, do good to your wives and be patient with her because God has made her with a weaker frame.

ILL: Sending my girlfriend home at night, carrying her heavy bags, etc.

APP: Be patient with her and don’t lay upon her the same expectations that you would do so on yourself. Be good to them. Don’t be harsh with them. You could offer to help her with some marketing, cleaning the house, babysitting your children for her, giving her a break from housework and bringing her out for a nice meal, or even giving her a good massage after a long day.

# II. Husbands, respect your wives because they are coheirs in Christ (7b)

## Peter wants husbands to honor their wives because they are not in any way less capable, but they share in the same inheritance with men in heaven.

## Husbands, do not put down your wives because they are women but recognize they are your equals and share in the same grace of salvation.

ILL: “When you are courting her, treat her like a queen and she’ll treat you like a king when you are married”

APP: Husbands, some ways you could really treat your wives as queen could be:

1. **R**espect her by asking of her opinion when making decisions   
   (ILL: arranging ministry dates)
2. Give her **S**pecial treatment “Ladies first” (ILL: Massaging my wife)
3. **V**alue her by saying words of praises, affirmation, appreciation or love   
   (ILL: I affirm my wife in her strength when she says she’s not good in homemaking)
4. Give **P**references to her (ILL: My wedding preparation for house)

# III. Husbands, respect your wives—otherwise your prayers may be hindered.

## Peter wants the believing husbands to know that if they don’t do good to their wives and respect her, this may hinder their prayers to God.

## Husbands, do good and respect your wives so that you are not sinning against God by going against His instituted authority.

### ILL: My wife has a good friend who is a faithful believer. She married a “Christian” brother 3 years ago and her husband, though he doesn’t abuse her physically, shouts at her, throws things around the house in anger, and worse still, he preaches at his church frequently. (He was formerly an SBC student) His anger often resulted in his wife hiding in a corner of their house when it breaks out. When I heard of it, I ask, I questioned his faith in my heart, not to mention if God will hear his ‘prayers’. Furthermore, he lives a double lifestyle in church and at home—only his wife and we know.

# Conclusion

### **The reason a husband should understand his wife and grant her honor is because God does not want his prayers to be hindered (MI).**

### Application:

a) Get to know your wives’ weaknesses and learn to accept them

b) Discuss things/issues with them with proper respect, taking their views seriously

c) Ask them for their opinions

d) Help them to carry things around

### To the rest of you who are not husbands, or wives, you may be wondering how relevant today’s message is for you. Remember, God has given us His commands on how to relate to one another as His children. Even if a situation pushes us to the extreme, like persecution, it does not allow us to compromise on God’s standard. As God’s children, He has a standard for all of us.

**1Peter 3:8-12:**

8 To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 9 not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead;

for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

10 For, "Let him who means to love life and see good days Refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile. 11 "And let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

May we learn how to relate to each other in obedience.

**Honoring your Wife**

***1 Peter 3:7***

NAS **1 Peter 3:7** You husbands likewise, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

ESV **1 Peter 3:7** Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

NAU **1 Peter 3:7** You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

NIV **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.

BGT **1 Peter 3:7** Oi` a;ndrej o`moi,wj( sunoikou/ntej kata. gnw/sin w`j avsqeneste,rw| skeu,ei tw/| gunaikei,w|( avpone,montej timh.n w`j kai. sugklhrono,moij ca,ritoj zwh/j eivj to. mh. evgko,ptesqai ta.j proseuca.j u`mw/nÅ

**sunoikou/ntej** verb participle present active nominative masculine plural from **sunoike,w**, to live with

**avpone,montej** verb participle present active nominative masculine plural from **avpone,mw**, to show, grant

**evgko,ptesqai** verb infinitive present passive from **evgko,ptw**, to impede, detain, hinder.

**Topic:** Marriage

**Theme:** Husband must honor his wife

**Thrust:** Husband to honor his wife in an understanding way

**Purpose:** That husband will honor their wife so that their prayers will not be hindered.

**Meditation:** Before the service, please reflect on this text: 1 Peter 2:13-3:12

**Reading:** During the service, read this passage publicly: 1 Peter 2:13-17; 3:7

# Paste Homiletical Outline here to Develop Manuscript (Step 7)

# Study Questions (Step 1)

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### We are to submit to a king for the Lord’s sake (2:13)

### Servants must be submissive to masters (2:18)

### Wives must be submissive to their own husbands (3:1)

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### To show that God has ordained human institutions such as husband and wife relationship and that we are to obey them out of fear to God.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

“A fire devastated Rome in a.d. 64 but suspiciously left unscathed the estates of Nero and his friend Tigellinus. Like any good politician, Nero needed a scapegoat for his ills, and what appeared to be a new religion, understood as a fanatical form of Judaism begun by a crucified teacher three and a half decades before, filled the need perfectly.

Romans viewed Christians, like Jews, as antisocial. Certain charges became so common that they were stereotypical by the second century: Romans viewed Christians as “atheists” (like some philosophers, for rejecting the gods), “cannibals” (for claiming to eat Jesus’ “body” and drink his “blood”), and incestuous (for statements like “I love you, brother,” or “I love you, sister”). Judaism was a poor target for outright persecution, because its adherents were numerous and it was popular in some circles; further, Nero’s mistress, Poppaea Sabina, was a [[1]](#footnote-1)patron of Jewish causes. By contrast, Christianity was viewed as a form of Judaism whose support was tenuous even in Jewish circles, and therefore it was an appropriate political scapegoat.

According to the early-second-century historian [[2]](#footnote-2)Tacitus, who disliked Christians himself, Nero burned Christians alive as torches to light his gardens at night. He killed other Christians in equally severe ways (e.g., feeding them to wild animals for public entertainment). In all, he must have murdered thousands of Rome’s Christians, although most Christians there escaped his grasp. Thus, even though the Greek part of the Empire loved Nero and the Jewish community generally favored him, Christians saw him as a prototype of the antichrist. Nero died in disgrace several years later, pursued by fellow Romans who hated him.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

# Questions

### Does the ‘likewise’ refer to submission to wives as well? 🡺 The likewise refers to submission to God’s ordained human institution. Husbands do not submit to wives like how wives submit to husbands, but they are to relate with their wife in a God honoring way.

### What is considered ‘an understanding way’? 🡺 It means to live together with his wife in a manner which is informed by the knowledge of God’s will, of what God demands of them to do.[[4]](#footnote-4) Perhaps understanding her too.

### What does it mean ‘a weaker vessel’? 🡺 It does not mean that women are of lesser capability than men. Bible says that both man and woman are equal in God’s sight as both are made in the image of God. This ‘weaker vessel’ simply refers to the physical strength of the women.

### What is honor and how can a husband grant his wife honor? 🡺 It means respecting the wife as a equal and fellow heir of God’s kingdom. She is in every way equal with man, not inferior, only physically weaker. Honoring also involves loving the wives. (Eph 5:25; Col 3:19; 1 Th 4:4)

### What does ‘as a fellow heir of the grace of life’ mean? 🡺 It means that women have the same destiny as men in the inheritance of God’s Kingdom.[[5]](#footnote-5) They are our equal partners in marriage, nothing lesser.

### Why would our prayers be hindered if we do not honor our wives? 🡺 If a man honors his wife, he is honoring and fearing God because every human institution is put in place by God. This is God’s will that we know how to relate with one another according His will. If we obey God by honoring our wives, this is deem as righteous in God’s sight and in 3:12, God says His ears will be attentive to our prayers. However, if we fail to honor our wife, then this is sin and if we treasure sin in our heart, the Lord will not hear us. (Psalm 66:18 If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear)

**Outlines (Steps 2-5)**

Date: 28 August 2008

**The Model Husband**

***1 Peter 3:7***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

Z1= The reason

X= Husband must understand your his wife and grant her proper respect

Z2= is because

Y= Otherwise your prayers may be hindered.

**EI:** **The reason husband must be understanding towards his wife and grant her honor is because otherwise his prayers will be hindered.**

Author’s Intent:

In the light of persecution in Nero’s reign, Peter is addressing the believers how to live their lives in a manner which pleases God. He wants them to know that every human institution is ordained by God, even Nero, and that they are to submit themselves to his reign. Peter develops this God ordained roles in human institution from Kingship submission, Servants submitting to their master, and subsequently to the very basic relationship between a man and his wife. He wants the believers to know that right from society’s highest position to each individual’s home, God has put in place roles which each man is to relate with one another. In order for one to learn obedience, fearing God and honoring Him, he or she needs to learn it starting at home. So the author Peter seeks to address in 1 Peter 3:7 that every husband must know God’s will in relating to his wife and honors her because this is right before God. Similarly, every believer must also honor God in submitting to every governing authority instituted by God because this is right as well. If we cannot learn submission here on earth, even in the family, how can we submit to God?

Commentary:[[6]](#footnote-6)

Although his point is to address the many converted wives with unconverted husbands (3:1–6), he includes a brief word for converted husbands as well. Many philosophers, moralists and Jewish teachers complained about the moral and intellectual weakness of women; some referred to the weakness of their bodies. Women’s delicacy was considered an object of desire, but also of distrust; even the traditional Roman legal system simply assumed their weakness and inability to make sound decisions on their own. Much of this was due to the influence of [[7]](#footnote-7)Aristotle, who argued that women were by nature inferior to men in every way except sexually.

Yet this weakness (Peter may apply it only to social position) was often cited as a reason to show them more consideration, and Peter attaches no significance to this common term *except* that requirement; the rest of the verse declares women to be equal before God, which ruined any arguments of their inferiority “by nature.” A husband who failed to recognize his wife’s spiritual equality jeopardized his own prayers, for the reason Peter gives in 3:12.

# Exegetical Idea (CPT): The reason husband must be understanding towards his wife and grant her proper respect is because otherwise his prayers may be hindered.

# I. Husbands are to understand your his wife because she is physically weaker (7a)

# II. Husbands are to treat your wives properly because they are coheirs in Christ (7b)

# III. Husbands are to understand your wife and grant her proper respect because otherwise your prayers may be hindered.

**Homiletical Outline**—Steps 4-6

(Make this a separate one-page outline on the next page that you hand in for you HO assignment. After incorporating lecturer input on your HO1, paste the revised HO2 at the front of this file and then expand into the full manuscript.)

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners(husbands) will know how to relate with their wives rightly and respect them so that their prayers may not be hindered.

# Tentative Theme/Thrust Statements (Step 5)

# Husbands, be good to your wives and respect her—otherwise your prayers may be hindered. (This is the MI which I have chosen)

# The reason husbands are to understand your wife and grant her proper respect is because this is a sign of submission to God.

# The reason husbands are to understand your wife and grant her proper respect is because this is the human institution which God has installed. Possible Illustrations (Step 6)

### My wife knows God’s command to submit to me. Each time she does this, it causes me to want to love her more. Similarly, God wants me to take care of her and honor her because this is my role to love her.

1. My wife is a very clear thinker in terms of ministry work and this is an area I’m learning from her.
2. Joke: A lady inserted an 'ad' in the classifieds: "Husband wanted". Next day she received a hundred letters. They all said the same thing: "You can have mine."
3. Rev Edmund Chan, often referring to his wife as “my better half”

# Possible Applications (Step 6)

### Discuss family matters with wife before making any major decisions

1. Affirm her verbally of her strength
2. Thank God for her, a helper to you
3. Make effort to know more about her, knowing the way she does things
4. Ask what does she expects of you as a husband

# Discussion Questions:

1. What does the ‘likewise’ refers to? Is it to submission to wives? Explain.
2. What is considered ‘an understanding way’?
3. In what way is a woman ‘a weaker vessel”?
4. How can a husband honor his wife?
5. Why is it so that husband’s prayers will be hindered if he fail to honor his wife?

1. patron **\*﻿Patron.** The social superior in the Roman patron-client relationship, who granted favors to and acted as political sponsor for his clients, or social dependents. The obligations in the relationship were viewed as reciprocal; clients were to grant the patrons honor as their benefactors. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Tacitus **Tacitus.** A Roman historian whose early-second-century history of first-century Rome is among our most dependable sources for that era (albeit often tainted with Tacitus’s cynicism). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Keener, C. S., & InterVarsity Press. (1993). *The IVP Bible background commentary : New Testament* (Jas 5:19). Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Thomas R. Schreiner, *The New American Commentary: 1,2 Peter, Jude* (USA: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), vol. 37, 160. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Ibid., 161. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Keener, C. S., & InterVarsity Press. (1993). *The IVP Bible background commentary : New Testament* (1 Pe 3:7). Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Aristotle **Aristotle.** A fourth-century b.c. student of Plato who wrote treatises on logic, rhetoric, nature and ethics. Many of his views became influential; his teachings were preserved especially by the school of philosophy known as the Peripatetics. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)