

Giving Honor to Your Wife

Likewise you husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life.... 1 Pet. 3:7

With Mother's Day coming up, I (Rick) realized that for most of you who will be reading this the woman in your life is not only your wife, but also the mother of your children or is the mother figure if you have adopted or have a blended family. It's easy on Mother's Day to honor our wife knowing the sacrifices, hard work, and love they pour into our children all year long, and we should do it! But the scripture verse I quoted doesn't restrict that honor to just a couple of special days during the year. **To "dwell" implies a 365 day a year commitment to give honor to our wife!**

We men are to live with our wife in "*an understanding way*" (NIV) – be considerate and empathetic, don't set unrealistic standards, be kind, compassionate, and caring. It requires a little bit of humility to give someone honor.

Honor is what you give people you look up to.

Honor is what you give people you admire for the qualities they have.

Honor is what you give people who are superior to you.

We are to treat our wife as priceless, valuable, precious, and important. We are also to treat them with respect, kindness, and courtesy.

I know the verse that I chose has created a lot of misunderstanding and sometime given license to dominance over some women in marriage because of the fallen masculine in men. The misunderstanding comes from the phrase "*as unto the weaker vessel.*" The first key to understanding this is the word "*as.*" "Show her honor *as* you would a weaker vessel." It's not an equivalency, but a comparison. For example, **Matt. 10:16** says, "I send you out *as* sheep...so be shrewd *as* serpents, and innocent *as* doves." Jesus is just comparing us to these animals, not that we are one!

Women are not some wimpy weak vessel unable to do anything significant on their own. They are every bit as strong, smart, courageous, and bold as any man. The central word is "honor," a term of value, worth, and respect. Vessel could be considered here like a piece of pottery with God as the master "potter." It's easy to make a strong, heavy, thick container for everyday use. But it takes a master to make a fine piece of china or crystal. We would not handle a common pot the same way we would an expensive piece of china. Weakness does not imply inferior or dependent, but something special and of great worth. **We are to treat (honor) our wife like we would a fine piece china or crystal made by a master craftsman!**

The last part of the verse is also important to consider. It says our wife is an equal "heir" as we are, not inferior, subordinate, or dependent. Our wife is an heir with us to the grace of life. Our wife is an equal recipient to God's grace as we men are.

Preparing this teaching has greatly impacted my thinking and attitude towards Sue. She is the one I chose to live with for the rest of my life. I made a commitment to stand by her and she

would stand by me through whatever happens until we move to heaven. Sue is the most important person in my life even though there are times that I have not treated her that way. Honor, respect, humility, submission are all qualities of being a son and walking in love. I am continuing to work on those qualities in my life and my relationship with Sue!

I want to close with listing 10 ways that we husbands can begin to show honor to our wife. They are taken from Rick Renner's book *Sparkling Gems From the Greek* – (day October 9th).

1. **Step forward and open the door for your wife and let her go through the door first.**
2. **When your wife walks up or down stairs or gets in or out of a car, take her hand and help her.**
3. **Instead of spending money on yourself, buy or let her buy something for herself.**
(It's even more fun to do this one together!)
4. **Tell your wife often how beautiful she is to you.**
5. **Speak honorably about your wife in front of others and your children.**
6. **Take your wife to dinner and let her talk, talk, and talk!**
7. **When you are at work or away on business, call your wife during the day.**
8. **Make time in your schedule for time only with your wife.**
9. **Take a few minutes every so often and write you wife a love letter, send a card, or leave a note where she will find it during the day.**
10. **Always remember special dates such as your wife's birthday, wedding anniversary, first date, etc.**

Men, I can tell you from experience, it is worth all the effort you put into making your wife feel honored, special, and valuable!!!!

Dialogue Questions

(Answer each question by writing a letter to your spouse. Then exchange letters and talk about what your spouse wrote.)

1. List three times when your spouse made you feel honored or respect. For each one describe how that made you feel.
2. Describe one time when your spouse made you feel dishonored or showed disrespect. Describe how that made you feel.

Fun Night Ideas

Match the menu for dinner with the movie you want to watch – Chinese (action) – French (love) – Italian (something a little spicy!)

Buy the ingredients, make the meal together, and enjoy the movie!

Go somewhere that you can watch the sunset. Take a blanket and picnic dinner. Sit and hold each other as you watch the sun set. Then go home and enjoy some intimate time together!