

# HUSBANDS AFTER CHRIST'S OWN HEART

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## INTRODUCTION:

- A. Last week we looked at the responsibilities of wives in a marriage relationship and looked at the character and actions of a godly wife... now we turn our attention to husbands
- B. Just as David was a man after God's own heart due to his shepherd's mentality, his love for God's law, love for God, his hatred for what God hates, and his love for what God loves, we're studying about husbands who are after Christ's own heart! (Eph 5:25-33)

## I. PETER'S INSTRUCTIONS ON THE HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITIES

### A. The husband after Christ's heart dwells with his wife physically:

1. Though only implicitly stated, it's easily seen that the husband has the responsibility to live with his wife... to be there for her physically (1 Peter 3:7)
  - a. Live: "To reside together" – Obviously this means they live under the same roof
  - b. There may be times where they have to be apart (military)... But during this his heart is always home with his wife! His desire is always to be home with her!
  - c. How much time do you spend at home? Some say, "It's not about quantity but quality!" This is just an attempt to rationalize away your failure to be home!
  - d. But it's more than that – It's possible for a man to live with his wife but keep himself distant from her, from her wants, and her needs... Husbands are there for her!
2. Problems arise within a marriage & family when the husband is just not home enough:
  - a. Some are at work all the time and never around for their wives & children... They work many overtime hours that aren't required & constantly on business trips
  - b. Now, sometimes these are necessary and can't be avoided but the godly husband would see this as a last resort, not something they seek! They take on these because they want to make more money to provide better for their family
  - c. The reality in many cases is that it's not because their family needs it but it's the result of the man's pride and materialistic attitude! This man is rarely home!
  - d. In the name of providing a better he winds up losing his family spiritually & sometimes physically... what they need the most is a husband and a father not the finest clothes, biggest house, and most expensive toys! (1 Tim 6:8-10)
3. Husbands, as well as wives, have the responsibility of living together physically and fulfilling one another's physical needs: (1 Cor 7:3-5)
  - a. Some know divorce is wrong so they'll separate & live apart... Clearly condemned!
  - b. Paul only gives one reason why a couple can "separate" – so they can spend time in prayer and fasting with the sole focus of coming back together again
  - c. Wives have physical needs in the marital relationship too... When husbands fail to tend to his wife's physical needs they sometimes go elsewhere to find the fulfillment... This is what not giving Satan an opportunity to tempt you refers to

### B. The husband after Christ's heart dwells with his wife intellectually:

1. Husbands are to dwell with their wives according to knowledge (1 Peter 3:7)
  - a. **Illustration:** Tim Taylor on Home Improvement said, "I have been married for 16 years and I know less about women now than I did when I got married!"
  - b. We joke a lot about how women are hard to understand and how the moment you start to figure them out they change! But understanding them is our duty!
  - c. Understanding them means we seek to know their wants, needs, desires, dreams,

- what pleases them and what frustrates them, and their expectations
2. This responsibility also means they treat their wives according to this knowledge:
    - a. ESV says: “Likewise, husbands live with your wives in an understanding way.”
    - b. Husbands must use their knowledge to be loving, gentler, compassionate, and to care for their wives (avoiding what frustrates her, gentler when she is moody)
    - c. Consider what Peter says in the next verses and think about how they apply to dealing with your wives in an understanding way **(I Peter 3:8-9)**
  3. Consider a chart that breakdowns the differences in the needs between men and women:
    - a. His Needs Her Needs by Willard F. Harley Jr. → Obviously this chart doesn’t take into consideration the spiritual needs of both parties, but its generally true!
    - b. Marriages begin in dreamland – They are madly in love and would do anything for each other! We call this the honey moon stage... In time some marriages turn frustrating! What happened? They quit seeking & fulfilling each other’s needs!
    - c. Become aware of your wife’s needs and learn to meet them! This sounds simple so why is it so neglected? Because too many are selfish & don’t put their spouse’s needs ahead of their own! Christ-mindedness fixes this! **(Phil 2:3-5)**
- C. The husband after Christ’s heart dwells with his wife emotionally:
1. While we typically emphasize the importance of wives showing respect to their husbands, Peter next tells husbands to show honor to the wives: **(1 Peter 3:7)**
    - a. Honor is not just an emotional need guys have but something men owe their wives!
    - b. Feminists say they seek equality between men & women... but if a husband treats his wife right equality would be bringing them down! He has his wife on a pedestal elevated high above himself – He feels honored to be married to her!
    - c. Any right thinking husband married to a godly wife clearly sees how much his wife does for him, her worth, & her character... He praises her often **(Pr 31:28-31)**
  2. Husbands treat them with honor because they understand they are the weaker vessel
    - a. **Illustration:** When younger mom left me outside nice stores with breakable plates, glasses & vases... Said I was like a bull in a china shop → Weaker vessels!
    - b. There are certain areas where women are naturally more sensitive than men, more tender, & weaker – To fail to recognize this is to fail to recognize the obvious!
    - c. The husband must treat her with more care than he does another guy – honors her for who she is & cares for her feelings & emotions & treats her with kindness
  3. When your wife agreed to enter in a marriage relationship with you she is placing her complete trust and confidence in you
    - a. She trusts you to love her always – To not run over her emotionally! **(I Cor 13)**
    - b. **Illustration:** Think about the words the preacher said to the wife to be & her vows
    - c. She hasn’t just trusted you with providing for her physically but for her emotionally and spiritually... She has placed her trust in you to protect her in every way
  4. With this in mind consider the next words of Peter and how they relate **(I Peter 3:8-11)**
- D. The husband after Christ’s heart dwells with his wife spiritually:
1. As Peter closes out these instructions he emphasizes the spiritual relationship and fellowship that should be shared between a husband and a wife: **(I Peter 3:7)**
    - a. Some describe marriage as a three legged stool – The physical side, emotional side, & spiritual side... Remove the spiritual leg & the marriage is unbalanced!
    - b. This is good but the spiritual side is not just another leg one gives a little attention to at times... For the strongest marriage possible it must be the foundation!

- c. A husband & wife are joint heirs of the grace of life – Both have eternity in Heaven as their home... In this life they're working together to achieve that goal
2. The husband is not just the head of the home in physical matters, but he also should be the head of the home in spiritual matters as well:
  - a. This certainly does not mean that he dictates his wife's religious beliefs & practices but that he is a spiritual leader in the home, a rock of strength and support
  - b. While the mother tends to do a lot of the Bible teaching when the children are younger, God puts the responsibility on the husband's shoulders **(Eph 6:4)**
  - c. The husband should be taking the lead in the home by saying prayers together, creating times to study together, and organizing other spiritual opportunities
  - d. The husband owes it to his wife & kids to set an unmistakable example of what it means to be a Christian – Attitude, speech, behavior, & decisions reflect this
3. As we consider the husband's responsibility to be there for his wife spiritually... Peter says that a failure to do these things will result in hindered prayers!
  - a. As a husband you need to realize that before the woman next to you was your wife she is your sister in Christ and the daughter of your Father in Heaven!
  - b. Most of the time guys are intimidated to meet a girl's father... But if you mistreat your wife you've will face a Father who holds much more power in His hands!
  - c. How you treat your wife has eternal consequences! It can hinder a man's prayer life... Without our prayers we're sure to bust hell wide open! **(Isaiah 59:1-2)**

Opening illustration: Panel of Women debated on what they thought was a perfect man, a guy who was 'with it'. You would have thought they would have decided upon some actor or athlete even a wealthy tycoon. They decided that the perfect man was MR POTATO HEAD. 4 Reasons: 'He's tan, he's cute, he knows the importance of accessorizing, and if he looks at another girl you can rearrange his face, "the perfect husband"

Jason, do you vow here, that you will love her, be true & loyal to her, patient in sickness, comforting in sorrow, & forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her so long as you both shall live?