



### **Text: 1 Peter 3:7 (English Standard Version)**

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.

### **Getting to know me**

1. In many marriages, husband and wife take different responsibilities based on their strengths and interests. What is that like in your marriage? If you are not married, what did you see in your parents or someone else that you would know well?
  
2. Husbands, without talking to your wife, write down her three top choices of things that she would like to do on an evening in which you had no commitments or responsibilities. Wives do the same. Then compare. This may be a small measure of how well you understand your wife.

If you are not married, what are three things that you think a woman would like to do?

### **Into the Bible**

1. Men, according to verse 7, what should you “understand” about your wife?

Feminists attack the Bible on the “weaker vessel” statement. Emerson Eggerichs in “Love and Respect” says, “Peter makes a

comparative statement, not a qualitative one. He is not saying that women are weak. He is saying that the wife is a 'weaker vessel' because of her vulnerability to her husband within the marriage relationship." She is vulnerable when her husband does not seek to understand her, and when she is not respected as an equal "fellow heir of the grace of life."

How do you "respect" your wife?

2. Why would a couple's prayers be hindered if the husband is not fulfilling his responsibility?
3. Check some other passages that show that our relationship with God is by our relationships with other people. Matt. 5:23; 6:12, 14-15; I Cor. 11:33-34. Why do you think God places such a priority on keeping good relationships with others? Clue—check John 13:34-35.
4. Proverbs has a few words of wisdom about honoring your wife. Look at—Prov. 5:15-20; 18:22; 19:14; 12:4. (There are others scattered through the book.) Chapter 31:10-31 is the alphabet of a noble wife. Verse 31 says, "Honor her for all that her hands have done . . . ." What things could you honor your wife for?

## Application Questions

1. If you are married, make an appointment to spend at least an hour with your wife to talk to discuss the things that she feels vulnerable about. Be prepared to listen and not defend. This is a step in living with her "in an understanding way."
2. If you are married, what areas of the seven "show honor" steps from the message do you feel you are doing well at and which do you need to work on? What do your wives think. (Couples will need to agree to discuss this in the group setting.)
3. If you are not married, which of those areas do you think would be more difficult for you as husband (or were more difficult in a previous marriage)?
4. For the women (married or not)—"I feel honored when \_\_\_\_\_?"
5. List some of the other commands in Scripture for Christian husbands. Look at Eph. 5:25-33 and Col. 3:19. How do you communicate love and what shows "harshness?"