

**Letters From A Fisherman**  
**Week 12**  
**1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 5:25-33**  
**"Submission (Part 3) The Godly Husband "**

**Introduction**

**Enjoy life with the wife you love all the days of your fleeting life, which has been given to you under the sun, all your fleeting days. For that is your portion in life and in your struggle under the sun.** **Ecclesiastes 9:9**

Marriage is one of the greatest gifts from God that sustains us through the difficulties of life here in this fallen world. It is the family unit that has, quite honestly, made life down here worth the living. Just think of how empty life would be without parents, spouses, children, and grandchildren, and for those who are most fortunate, even great-grandchildren! It doesn't matter what this life throws at me, I have always been able to take solace in my faith and my family. I am certain that many of you would also agree.

That being said, faith and family are two of the things that are most under attack in today's society. Make no mistake, attacks upon faith and family are demonically inspired. For the devil loves to tear down the very institutions which The LORD has established. He is diametrically opposed to God's plans, His will, and His purposes. Therefore, we should not be surprised to see an all out assault taking place on the family, for it is designed to be the very cornerstone of civilization.

When God created humanity, He began with a man. It was the man who was intended to have authority within the family unit. The woman was created next as a helpmate to the man. When this relationship works as it should, these two separate and different individuals come together as one. There can be no substitute for the joining of a man and woman in holy matrimony. For no other bond can even come close to all that is achieved by this union. Once again, in order to have proper and orderly function in a created thing, one must carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions! Even so-called "religious leaders" sometimes forget the power and permanence of the institution of marriage.

**Some of the Pharisees approached Him to test Him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife on any grounds?"**

**"Haven't you read." He replied, "that He, Who created them in the beginning made them male and female, and He also said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate."** **Matthew 19:3-6**

We can learn three things from The LORD'S response. First, it was God Who made marriage to begin with. Therefore, He alone has the right to regulate it. Second, marriage is between a *man* and a *woman*, no other combination qualifies. No matter what the ungodly of this world attempt to put forth in their most perverse imaginings. Second, Marriage is to be permanent. What God joins together, it is sinful to tear apart. Oh, what a better and happier world we would live in if these rules were settled and established in our society!

Many in liberal circles these days are only too happy to do Satan's bidding for him, in his attempts to tear down the sacred institution of marriage. They seem to think that because *The Bible* teaches that a man is to be the head of the household, that somehow the poor woman is regarded as "*second class*" with no real value in the relationship. **NOTHING could be further from the truth!**

As we have been studying *1 Peter* and his teachings on the doctrine of submission, we do see that a wife is required by God to submit to the authority of her husband. But this does not mean that the husband isn't required to have a form of submission as well. In fact, a careful observation of The Scriptures will reveal to us that a godly husband is required to submit all that he is in order to adequately serve the wife that God has given him. We are called to be, *Partners, Protectors, and Providers*, putting our wife's needs ahead of our own. Even at the expense of our own lives if necessary. So when it comes to submission in marriage, trust me when I say, there is plenty to go around. Please allow me to explain.

### **Partner (1 Peter 3:7a)**

***Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way...***

**1 Peter 3:7a**

Peter starts off once more by saying, "*In the same way...*" and what way is that? He is still talking about submission, and the thought being conveyed is that husbands have to submit just like everyone else does. So much for the misconception that the so-called "man of the house" is somehow exempt from submitting himself like every other Believer!

In Peter's day, in Greco-Roman culture, husbands had very little to do with their wives. In fact, a wife was considered to be of about the same worth as a household servant. They were expected to keep the house and bear children, and that is about it. Roman men wouldn't even consider their wives as friends, or someone whose opinion they valued. They lived their lives in the quest of personal glory, and the wives were altogether left out of the equation.

Christianity is often accused of being repressive in nature. The women's liberation movement would have us believe that the rules of Christian marriage are designed to "*keep the woman down*", as it were. But actually the opposite is true. Peter commands godly men to " *dwell with*" or "*live with*" their wives depending upon the English translation you read. This command would have been so foreign to the society at large. But Christ commands those that He joins in matrimony to "*do life together*". The Christian husband is supposed to cherish his wife and to draw close to her. He doesn't live out a separate life and keep her at arms length. She was designed to become his partner in life, his helpmate. This was always God's intention from the very beginning. We are called to dwell with our wives, for they are our partners in life, and we are to treat them as such.

I remember when Sandi and I first got married. I was playing in a band, and we traveled... a lot! There were many months that I was only home two or three days, and that was it. Meanwhile, she lived all alone there on the outskirts of Nashville. She spent many an hour patiently waiting for me to come home, or even just to receive a phone call from the road. Looking back on it, I don't really know how or even why she put up with that life. But to her credit, she did.

Then, later on, when God began to convict me about my chosen profession, I gave up on the whole *music thing* and got a real job. But being an avid outdoorsman, I spent a great deal of my time when I wasn't at work either hunting or fishing. So, I still wasn't at home as much as I needed to be. I will never forget my dad pulling me aside and reminding me that Sandi was my partner in life, and in order to be a good husband, I needed to put up the guns and fishing rods and spend more time at home with my wife and kids.

I remember that I couldn't even get mad at my father for putting me in my place on the subject. Because I knew in my heart, that he was right. If a man chooses to marry a woman, then he owes her his time. I once heard a preacher say that love was spelled, **t-i-m-e**. And he was spot on! So if a godly man marries a wife, then your time is the best way to show her how much you love her.

So, as Peter would say... "***Dwell with your wife.***" Be a partner to her. Do not leave her out of your daily pursuits, but rather, submit yourself in order to become the best partner she could ever hope to have. Then you just might be surprised to see how much that she is willing to submit to your leadership. So, if you want to have a happy marriage... be a **partner** to your wife, giving her the very best of your time and attention. Make her your number one priority, second only to your relationship with God. *For*

*nothing good ever grows in a garden that is left unattended.* Pretty soon the weeds will take over and choke out everything that was planted at the start. I often tell young men who are about to get married, *“Make sure that you spend the rest of your life, trying to win the heart of your wife. Never stop dating your partner.”*

### **Protector (1 Peter 3:7b)**

**...as with a weaker partner, showing them honor as coheirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.** **1 Peter 3:7b**

Now I know that this is going to come as a shock to some people, but men (for the most part) are physically stronger than women! This is what Peter means when he refers to women as “the weaker partner”. It’s not a superiority thing, nor a mental aptitude thing, its a physical thing. Men are designed to be the stronger physically of the two. So as a matter of course, the husband is supposed to be the protector of his wife.

There is nothing more disgusting than a man who either physically abuses his wife, or one who will not defend her honor. There really seems to be a shortage of **real** men these days. If you honor your wife and treat her as a precious gift from God as you should, then you should be willing and able to be her protector. In fact, as a godly husband you should be not only the protector of your wife, but that of your children as well. And heaven knows we need more men who will model this strength of character so that the younger generation will learn from our example.

I have four sons. Two by birth and two by adoption. I want all my boys to see that their dad was willing to be strong on their behalf. I will turn the other cheek, when I am insulted or treated with contempt, but I can not, and will not, turn my family’s other cheek, as it were. To get to my family, one would need to go through me, and that, I promise, will not be an easy thing to do. God has called me to be the protector of my family. Of course my sons are all grown up now and are pretty strong men on their own. So, I am semi-retired in this regard. But I am still the protector of my wife.

Notice what else Peter says about marriage. He refers to it as “the grace of life”. He is not speaking here of saving grace, but rather the gift of grace that is a loving spouse. To have someone so close to you to share your joys and your sorrows, to be given someone so special that you have the privilege of protecting her honor, now *that* is the grace of life. As I mentioned before, I cannot imagine a greater earthly blessing apart from our salvation, than that of a life partner in a Christ-centered marriage. It simply doesn’t get any better than this down here. When we get to heaven, we will have complete fellowship with God and this will be all that we need for eternity, but down here, it is good that we have marriage. And it is the grace of life. So we must guard it with our lives.

If we are unwilling to submit ourselves to the guardianship of our wives, if we do not live to defend them as our coheirs in the grace of life. Then our prayers will go unanswered. For God will not bless over sin. As men, we must take this warning seriously. The word that Peter uses for “hindered” in the Greek is a word that literally means “road block”. If you fail to be your wife’s protector, expect your prayer life to encounter a road block. When you try and pray, you will find that your prayers fall to the ground in vain, for heaven is not responding. Kind of makes you wonder why so many today have empty and ineffectual prayer lives does it not?

If you want God to answer when you pray, honor your wife and be her ever watchful protector. It is your duty to do so as a submissive husband. It is what you were designed to do. God didn’t give you all those muscles for nothing. I had a godly woman say to me one time, “Sometimes, this world needs to feel the weight of a man.” As I have gotten older through the years, I am beginning to understand exactly what she meant by that. Men need to *act* like men! This world is doing all that it can to eradicate masculinity in society, but God is calling us to it. We need a lot more men with backbone in this world, not less. For *protectors* are in short supply these days.

**Provider (Ephesians 5:25-33)**

**Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless. In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, since we are members of his body. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband. Ephesians 5:25-33**

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her...” I must have read that verse hundreds of times over the years. And each time I read it, I still feel so inadequate as a husband. But can I tell you in all those years I had only scratched the surface of what that verse really means. Those words, “and gave Himself for her” have really jumped out at me this week. You see, Christ didn’t just love the church, He loved her enough to lay down His life to provide what she needed most. That...is the ultimate form of submission. That a husband is willing to dedicate his life in order to provide for the wife that he cherishes.

Men, I want you to hear what this Scripture is telling us this morning. Jesus humbled Himself to allow the most unimaginable hardships to afflict Him. And for what? So that He could provide what His bride needed the most... namely her salvation. So, in order to love my wife as Christ loves His, I must be willing to dedicate my life to see to it that she has everything she needs. I am called to be her provider. In other words, her needs come at the expense of my own. So do not tell me a godly husband doesn’t submit to his wife. He most certainly does!

We are called to provide for our wives just as Christ provided for His. This means that we see to it their spiritual needs are met, by becoming the priests of our homes. It is incumbent upon us to lead, when it comes to following Christ. For we must stand before His judgment seat and give an account for this (**2 Corinthians 5:10**). And we must also become the provider for our wife’s emotional needs, as well as her physical needs. In other words we **work** to see to it that she is properly cared for. *The Bible* clearly teaches that a man who does not provide for his own family is worse than a pagan.

**But if anyone does not provide for his own family, especially for his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5:8**

To love a person is to provide for that person. No excuses. Their needs come first. This is how a man is required to submit to his wife, by dedicating his life to taking care of her. And rest assured, a godly woman who loves Christ will have no difficulty in submitting to a man who is willing to give all that he has in order to see to it that she has her every need fulfilled, whether it be spiritual, physical or emotional. And your wife’s emotional need is your love and affection. For you see, women were designed by God to be loved by their husbands, and men were designed by God to be respected by their wives.

So, I believe that we have now demonstrated through God’s Word, that His plan for marriage is far better than all this world’s alternatives. Satan can only produce counterfeits that are unfulfilling, while God offers us the “*grace of life*” that is a christian covenant marriage. So that together in Him our spiritual, physical, and emotional needs are fully provided. And God knows best what every man and woman needs to have fulfillment in marriage:

**To sum up, each of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband. Ephesians 5:33**

And that my friends.....is absolute Truth!!!