

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY INSTITUTE

REV. JEFFERY D. BELL SR., PASTOR/TEACHER

“ WEDLOCK OR DEADLOCK “

PART 2

1 PETER 3 VS 7

NOT ONLY DID PETER INSTRUCT THE WIVES OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY, BUT HE NOW MOVES TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HUSBANDS. PETER REMINDS THEM IN THIS ONE VERSE OF FOUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THEIR RELATIONP WITH THEIR MATES.

II. CONSIDERATION WHY DID PETER DEVOTE MORE SPACE TO INSTRUCTING THE WIVES THAN THE HUSBANDS : BECAUSE CHRISTIAN WIVES WERE EXPERIENCING A WHOLE NEW SITUATION AND NEEDED GUIDANCE. IN GENERAL, WOMEN WERE KEPT DOWN IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE, AND THEIR NEW FREEDOM IN CHRIST CREATED NEW PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES. FURTHERMORE MANY OF THEM HAD UNSAVED HUSBANDS AND NEEDED EXTRA ENCOURAGEMENT AND ENLIGHTMENT .

I. PHYSICALLY (VS 7) “ DWELL WITH THEM “ THIS IMPLIES MUCH MORE THAN SHARING THE SAME ADDRESS. MARRIAGE IS FUNDAMENTALLY A PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP

EPHESIANS 5 VS 31 ...” THEY TWOSHALL BE ONE FLESH “ . OF COURSE, CHRISTIAN MATES ENJOY A DEEPER SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP, BUT THE TWO GO TOGETHER (**1 COR 7 VS 1-5**). A TRULY SPIRITUAL HUSBAND WILL FULFILL HIS MARITAL DUTIES AND LOVE HIS WIFE. THE HUSBAND MUST MAKE TIME TO BE HOME WITH HIS WIFE. CHRISTIAN WORKERS AND CHURCH OFFICERS WHO GET TOO BUSY RUNNING AROUND SOLVING OTHER PEOPLES PROBLEMS MAY END UP CREATING PROBLEMS OF THEIR OWN AT HOME. ONE SURVEY REVEALED THAT THE AVERAGE HUSBAND AND WIFE HAD THIRTY SEVEN MINUTES A WEEK TOGETHER IN ACTUAL COMMUNICATION ! IS IT ANY WONDER THAT MARRIAGES FALL APART AFTER THE CHILDREN GROW UP AND LEAVE THE HOME ? THE HUSBAND AND THE WIFE ARE LEFT ALONE – TO LIVE WITH STRANGERS !

“ DWELL WITH THEM” ALSO SUGGEST THAT THE HUSBAND PROVIDE FOR THE PHYSICAL NEEDS OF THE HOME. WHILE IT IS NOT WRONG FOR A WIFE TO HAVE A JOB OR CAREER, HER FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS TO CARE FOR HER HOME (**TITUS 2 VS 4-5**) IT IS THE HUSBAND WHO SHOULD PROVIDE (**1 TIM5 VS8**)

II. INTELLECTUAL (VS 7) “ ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE “ IT IS AMAZING HOW THAT TWO PEOPLE CAN LIVE TOGETHER AND NOT REALLY KNOW EACH OTHER! IGNORANCE IS DANGEROUS IN ANY AREA OF LIFE, BUT IT IS ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS IN THE AREA OF MARRIAGE. A CHRISTIAN HUSBAND NEEDS TO KNOW HIS WIFE’S :

1. MOODS

2. FEELINGS

3. NEEDS

4. FEARS

5. HOPES

HE NEEDS TO “*LISTEN WITH HIS HEART*” AND SHARE MEANINGFUL COMMUNICATION WITH HER. THERE MUST BE IN THE HOME SUCH A PROTECTIVE ATMOSPHERE OF LOVE AND SUBMISSION THAT THE HUSBAND AND WIFE CAN DISAGREE AND STILL BE HAPPY TOGETHER.

THE SECRET OF THIS TYPE OF COMMUNICATION

1. TRUTH

2. LOVE

(EPH 4 VS 15). IT HAS WELL BEEN SAID THAT **LOVE** WITHOUT **TRUTH** IS HYPOCRISY, AND **TRUTH** WITHOUT **LOVE** IS BRUTALITY. WE NEED BOTH OF THESE IF WE ARE GOING TO GROW IN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ONE ANOTHER . HOW CAN A HUSBAND SHOW CONSIDERATION IF HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND HER NEEDS OR PROBLEMS.? TO SAY “ I NEVER I NEVER JNEW YOU FELT THIS WAY ! “ IS TO CONFESS THAT, AT SOME POINT , ONE MATE EXCOMMUNICATED THE OTHER. WHEN EITHER MATE IS AFRAID TO BE OPEN AND HONEST ABOUT A MATTER, THEN HE OR SHE IS BUILDING WALLS NOT BRIDGES.

III.EMOTIONAL (VS 7) “ GIVING HONOR UNTO THE WIFE “. CHIVARY MAY BE DEAD, BUT EVERY HUSBAND MUST BE A “ KNIGHT IN SHINNING ARMOR “ WHO TREATS HIS WIFE LIKE A PRINCESS. PETER DID NOT SUGGEST THAT A WIFE IS THE “ WEAKER VESSEL “:

1. MENTALLY

2. MORALLY

3. SPIRITUALLY

BUT RATHER :

4. PHYSICALLY

THE HUSBAND SHOULD TREAT HIS WIFE LIKE AN EXPENSIVE , BEAUTIFUL , FRAGILE VASE IN WHICH IS A PRECIOUS TREASURE.

THE UNFORTUNATE PATTERN WE SEE

DATING – THE BOY IS

COURTEOUS

THOUGHTFUL

AFTER ENGAGED – THE BOY IS

SHOWS MORE COURTESY

ACTS MORE LIKE A GENTLEMAN

ONCE MARRIED – THE HUSBAND

FORGETS TO BE KIND AND GENTLEMANLY

TAKES WIFE FOR GRANTED

HE FORGETS THAT HAPPINESS IN A HOME IS MADE UP OF MANY LITTLE SMALL COURTESIES OF LIFE. BIG RESENTMENT OFTEN GROW OUT OF SMALL HURTS. HUSBANDS AND WIVES NEED TO BE HONEST WITH EACH OTHER, ADMIT HURTS AND SEEK FORGIVENESS AND HEALING. “ GIVING HONOR UNTO THE WIFE “ DOES NOT MEAN GIVING INTO THE WIFE. A HUSBAND CAN DISAGREE WITH HIS WIFE AND STILL HONOR AND RESPECT HER. AS A SPIRITUAL LEADER IN THE HOME A HUSBAND MUST SOMETIME MAKE DECISIONS THAT ARE NOT POPULAR ; BUT HE CAN STILL ACT WITH COURTESY AND RESPECT.

WHAT DOES GIVING HONOR TO THE WIFE MEAN

IT MEANS THAT A HUSBAND RESPECTS HIS WIFE :

FEELINGS

THINKING

DESIRES

HE MAY NOT AGREE WITH HER IDEALS BUT HE RESPECTS THEM. OFTEN GOD BALANCES A MARRIAGE SO THAT THE HUSBAND NEEDS WHAT THE WIFE HAS IN HER PERSONALITY, AND SHE LIKewise NEEDS HIS GOOD QUALITIES. AN IMPULSIVE HUSBAND OFTEN HAS A PATIENT WIFE , AND THIS HELPS TO KEEP HIM OUT OF TROUBLE !

THE HUSBAND MUST BE THE THERMOSTAT IN THE HOME, SETTING THE EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL TEMPERATURE. THE WIFE OFTEN IS THE THERMOMETER, LETTING HIM KNOW WHAT TEMPERATURE IT

IS! BOTH ARE NECESSARY. THE HUSBAND WHO IS SENSITIVE TO HIS WIFE'S FEELINGS WILL NOT ONLY MAKE HER HAPPY, BUT WILL ALSO GROW HIMSELF AND HELP HIS CHILDREN LIVE IN A HOME THAT HONORS GOD.

IV. SPIRITUAL “ THAT YOUR PRAYERS BE NOT HINDERED ” PETER ASSUMED THAT HUSBAND AND WIVES WOULD PRAY TOGETHER, OFTEN THEY DO NOT; AND THIS IS THE REASON FOR MUCH UNHAPPINESS. IF UNCONVERTED PEOPLE CAN HAVE HAPPY HOMES WITHOUT PRAYER (AND THEY DO), HOW MUCH HAPPIER WOULD CHRISTIAN HOMES BE WITH PRAYER ! A HUSBAND AND A WIFE NEED TO HAVE THEIR OWN PRIVATE, INDIVIDUAL PRAYER TIME EACH DAY, THEY ALSO NEED TO PRAY TOGETHER AND HAVE A TIME OF FAMILY DEVOTION. HOW THIS IS ORGANIZED WILL CHANGE FROM HOME TO HOME, AND EVEN FROM TIME TO TIME AS THE CHILDREN GROW UP AND SCHEDULES CHANGE.

SO WHAT TWO THINGS MAKE THE HUSBAND AND THE WIFE HEIRS TOGETHER

1. WIFE'S SUBMISSION

2. HUSBAND'S CONSIDERATION

QUESTIONS BASED ON WHAT PETER WROTE IN THESE VERSES

1. ARE WE PARTNERS OR COMPETITORS ?
2. ARE WE HELPING EACH OTHER BECOME MORE SPIRITUAL ?
3. ARE WE DEPENDING ON THE EXTERNALS OR INTERNALS ? THE ARTIFICIAL OR REAL ?
4. DO WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER BETTER ?
5. ARE WE SENSITIVE TO EACH OTHER'S FEELINGS OR IDEALS, OR TAKING EACH OTHER FOR GRANTED?
6. ARE WE SEEING GOD ANSWER OUR PRAYERS ?
7. ARE WE ENRICHED BECAUSE OF OUR MARRIAGE OR ROBBING EACH OTHER OF GOD'S BLESSING

HONEST ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS MIGHT MAKE A DIFFERENCE !