

The Four-Sided Fortress of a Husband's Love

1 Peter 3:7



SUMMARY OF TODAY'S MESSAGE

If life is to be *rock solid*, then family relationships—especially marriage—must be rock solid. No wonder Peter speaks to husbands after addressing wives. In his directive toward submission, he addresses citizens (and not government officials); he addresses servants (and not their masters).

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S MESSAGE

But when it comes to the home, he addresses *both wives and husbands*. Let's consider how a husband's love can make a woman feel firmly secure.

THE FOUR SIDED FORTRESS OF A HUSBAND'S LOVE

1. Submission is Mutual ("*Husbands, likewise...*")

Likewise—husbands don't submit in the same way wives submit, but there is a mutual level of submission

Submit is implied from verse 21 and continues to be implied in verse 25, 6:1, and 6:5 (for wives, husbands, children, and servants)

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2. Consideration is Essential ("*dwell with them with understanding*")

Understand what God's purpose for marriage is and what you and your wife's roles are

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You have to know her well if you're going to love her
well

Genesis 2:18

Comparable = suitable; a counterpart

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Hebrew: "I am going to make a helper *like-opposite* him"; suggests polarity

Book on brain physiology states that men are different from women in aptitude, skill, behavior, communication, physically, etc.

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3. Cooperation is Practical

A Husband Should Promote Honor ("*giving honor to the wife*")

(To) honor = to assign/assess value to a person;
priceless, precious

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"After interviewing hundreds of wives and daughters, there is one consistent plea that is commonly asked by them of all of their fathers and their husbands: please be comforting instead of lecturing and criticizing"—

Gary Smalley

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A Husband Should Provide Strength ("*as to the weaker vessel*")

Weaker vessel—does not mean a wife is weaker intellectually, emotionally, or spiritually

On a physiological, scientific level, women are *generally* weaker than men

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A Husband Should Pledge Companionship

("heirs together")

Could mean physical life or spiritual, everlasting life

Your wife's soul is as precious to God as your soul;
treat her as a daughter of the living God

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"Woman was not taken from man's head to be above him; she was not taken from his feet to be walked on by him; but she was taken from his side to be close to him, from under his arm to be protected by him, from near to his heart to be loved by him"—paraphrased
from Matthew Henry

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Your wife doesn't want more things, she wants more
of you

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4. Division is Unprofitable ("*that your prayers be not hindered*")

Hinder = to cut in, to interrupt

Satan's desire is to cut in between a husband and God

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Luke 22:31—true of every husband

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded
permission to sift you like wheat”

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The sin of unforgiveness can hinder your prayers from
being answered

Never go to sleep at night without forgiving your
spouse

Evasion of husbandly duty will bring interruption to
heavenly bounty

Closing Thought

Tear up that picture that you have in your mind of the perfect partner and accept the imperfect partner
You're married to an imperfect person—and so is your spouse