

Mus

Part II

Title: The Head of the House

Text: I Peter chapter 3:7

The Bible teaches that man should be the head of the house. But, what does that mean? Most men believe that they should be the head of the home. Yet, very few men know what that means. The world has a concept which centers around the idea: "I AM THE BOSS AND THE WIFE AND KIDS ARE TO DO WHAT I SAY."....(Period).....

But that is not the Biblical concept. What is the Biblical concept? What makes a christian man different from a man who is not a christian?

Being "head of the home" involves many, many things. We could talk about his authority in the home. We could talk about man's responsibility to provide for his family. And if he doesn't, it is as though he had denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. We could talk about his position in the family and many other areas....

But, this morning, I would like to share with you a couple of areas that are often overlooked when one teaches about man's responsibilities in the home.

Would you take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to I Peter chapter 3.....I Peter chapter 3 vs 7.....

(Read I Peter 3:7)

Prayer

(2A) I Peter chapter 3 deals mostly with the problem of a woman married to an unbeliever, who is not obeying the Word of God, and what she is to do. But Peter considers all women and men in this problem. And in vs 7 he deals with the husband specifically. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HEAD OF THE HOUSE? It means that a man will accept his wife's position in the home.

And this is an area of responsibility that is very seldom taught. But, men, I want you to see this today....

You know, a lot of our problems is in the mind and in our mental attitudes. It is the way we look at things. The wife has already turned off mentally her husband as being the head of the home because of the things he does or the things he says *or the things he fails to say or do.*

And the husband cannot control the affairs of his home and he is not the leader he should be because he is not walking in the spirit. So, he turns off his wife. Perhaps, he doesn't take the responsibility. He lets the wife do it all. He lets the wife handle the kids and the affairs of the home. And he lets the wife suffer and endure and go through hardship and trouble and sorrow simple because he has turned off his responsibility.

But, here is an [REDACTED] area where very few men want to consider. And that is...where does my wife really stand in relationship to me, if I am truly [REDACTED] the head of the house. HOW AM I TO LOOK AT HER? HOW AM I TO ACCEPT HER POSITION IN THE HOME AND IN MY LIFE?

Men! Here is a verse which deals with this subject in detail.

Vs 7 says: " You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow-heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered."

Gentlemen, I have read this verse many times. And it has caused many questions in my mind. For, according to this verse, this is a [REDACTED] very dangerous principle not to follow. Because our prayers will be hindered. We will have no effectiveness in prayer, if we do not follow the teaching of this verse. O.K....WHAT IS THIS VERSE TEACHING? I would like to share this acceptance of the wifes position in several relationships.....

(1B) Number one, in our personal relationship with our wife, according to Vs 7, we are to live with her according to understanding.

This verb "live with" means "to inhabit together." There is a real togetherness in this verb. And we are to do this in an "understanding way." This is simply the word for "knowledge."

In Greek there are two words for "knowledge." This is "knowledge" by way of "experience"....To have knowledge by experience, not just cold hard facts.....

In other words, when I relate myself to my wife, and as we live in our home, I must realize that I am inhabiting this home and this marriage in a togetherness with her. I am dwelling with her in this marriage according to understanding that is produced by daily experience.

In other words, I am not quick to say...."Hay, I have the authority.... I am the head of the house. You do this or else".....

That is ridiculous. Because this understanding of my relationship with my wife is being developed on the bases of personal experience.

Gentlemen, we cannot hide from our wives. They know who and what we are. It is in the home where people are seen best.....

(2B) Then secondly, in our [REDACTED] personal relationship with our wife, notice what our reaction should be to them.

Vs 7 says: "Grant her honor as with a weaker vessel." A man who desires to be head of the house will honor his wife. The word "honor" is simply the word "respect" A christian man will "respect" his wife.

This means: to never over power or drive the wife as a slave driver would....Never....WHY?....Because we are to live with our wife according to understanding that comes by experience.

And, also, because the wife is a weaker vessel, both from the standpoint of "strength" and "position"....Therefore, to be head of the house is to "respect" and "honor" our wife.

And Gentlemen, in no why should your wife be put down because in I Corinthians chapter 11 we learn that the position of the woman is to bring glory to the man. And that is a tremendous principle to understand..... For the man who has a wife that is not a glory to him, is a man who is ruined in many fields of indeivor. And the man who can look at his wife and praise God and thank God for her, is a man who is truely rich, indeed..... (Ama)

Men, live with your wife with understanding. Give honor...give respect to her.....O.K....WHAT ELSE?

(3B) To be head of the house is to accept your wife with realization of your spiritual oneness. Vs 7 says: "Fellow-heir of the grace of life."

The Bible teaches in I Peter 3:7 that we are heirs together. Man does not have more inheritance than the woman. Man doesn't have a ~~higher~~ higher place in God's Kingdom than the woman. Now, some religions teach that.... But the Christian faith doesn't. We are joint-heirs together....

And what are we heirs off?.....THE GRACE OF LIFE.....WHAT IS GRACE? Grace is ~~every~~ everything God gives to me that I do not deserve....Everything.... So, whatever I am, if I am the head of my home, it is only because of God's grace. It is not because of any merit or greatness on my part. ~~This~~ *The* truth of the matter is, as many of you men know, some of these ladies would make ~~better~~ better authorities than we....Some of our women are more talented, far more superior, have greater knowledge, less ~~stubborn~~ stubborn, far more loving....

But, ladies, don't you ever assume that God has changed his order and his position....He never has.

So, men, we must realize that in Christ, God says that there is neither male or female. He doesn't count the man as more important than the wife. We are both the receivers of grace. AND WE RECEIVE THE GRACE OF WHAT?.....LIFE..

WHAT IS LIFE?.....The moment you accept Christ Jesus as your Lord and saviour, God gives you His life *- We have eternal Life*

HOW DO WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER?.....It is because we share life with one another.

WHAT MAKES US ALL ONE IN CHRIST?.....WHY ARE WE ONE BODY?...Because the Holy Spirit of God has given us His life.

WHAT MAKES <sup>us all</sup> YOU EQUAL ~~with me~~ IN GOD'S EYES? Because we have His life. We are all one. We are heirs together of the grace of life....

I wonder, do you look at yourselves that way? Heirs....joint-heirs with Christ of the grace of life.....?

(40) Then notice the result of not treating your wife in this manner. We have a tremendous warning here. Vs 7 says: "Your prayers will be hindered."

The word "hindered" comes from a word meaning "to cut into" or "to interrupt." The verse is teaching that God actually "cuts into" your spiritual life and your prayers if you are not treating your wife properly....

Men, I studied this verse very carefully. And let me tell you, it did something to me. And I hope it will do something to you....

How effective are we as men?.....Is God listening to us when we pray?.....Do we have a powerful prayer life? OR...are our prayers being interrupted....cut into....by God.....

Is God saying: "Well, I would like to answer that prayer, but there is something wrong in the home." Do you understand?.....That your prayers may not be hindered..... *IF You Want To Be Head of The House, you will accept your Wifes POSITION IN That House*

(3A) Now, I would like you to turn to Ephesians chapter 5....Ephesians 5... There is <sup>a Final</sup> ~~another~~ area that I would like to mention as it ~~relates~~ relates to the meaning of being head of the house. This area deals with our ~~responsibility~~ responsibility, men, of expressing affection to our wives....

Ephesians chapter 5 and notice Vs 25: "Husbands"....notice, men, it is a command. It is not a mere suggestion...."Husbands love your wife"....

The word "love" is in a tense meaning "as a habit of life"....Husbands love....continually, constantly, your wives, just as Christ, also, loved the church and gave Himself for her."

A tremendous principle.....Notice Vs 28: "So, husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church."

Now, I would like to share with you a couple of things about this love. (1B) Number one, we have a great example, according to the Bible, in Christ.

In Vs 25 would you please notice how Paul changes the tense of the verb? And he does this for a very important reason.

He says: "Husbands love....meaning "continually as a habit of life".... "Husbands love your wives just as Christ also lovedddd"...notice...past tense.. LOVED....."as he loved the church and gave...(past tense)...give himself for her."

O.K...WHAT IS THIS REFERRING TO?....It is referring back to the cross. So, put it together...In daily life I am to love my wife constantly...HOW? *IF I Want To Be Head of The house*

I am to love my wife just like Christ who in one moment of time, on the cross, revealed his tremendous love for us. <sup>Now</sup> it occurs to me that I have before me a tremendous responsibility.....HOW CAN I LOVE MY WIFE WITH THAT KIND OF LOVE? HOW?....Answer....Look back at Vs 18....The key to being a loving husband is to be filled with the Holy Spirit....For the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love... ~~Men, you want to be head of the house?~~ <sup>Men</sup>! You want to know what it means to be head of the house. <sup>?</sup> It means loving your wife as Christ loved the church. And I might add that Christ died for the church...Am I daily loving my wife as Christ loved the church? Do I love my wife to that degree? That is my standard....That is my responsibility in being the head of the house

Men, if you love your wife as Christ loved the church, then you have the right to be head of the house.....

You know, I am very thankful and grateful that our great bridegroom, the Lord Jesus, never stops loving me. And the great demonstration of God's love was there at the cross.

And if you are here, today, and you are not sure that you are a christian. You are not sure that you have ever come to a personal relationship with Christ, I want you to know that Jesus will never stop loving you. He loves you just as much, now, as He did the day He died on that cross for your sins. And if you were the only person who has ever lived, Christ would have still died on the cross for you. That is how much he loves you. And that is how much he desires that you confess your sin and receive him as savior....

And what an example that is for husband to love their wives....

(2B) But what is the extend of this love? It involves my concern for my wife. Vs 29 says: "for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church."

WHAT <sup>should be</sup> THE EXTENT OF MY LOVE? IT SHOULD INVOLVE THREE THING.....

(1E) Number one, "nourish"....The word "nourish" means "to promote health and strenth." For example, it is used in Ephesians 6:4 where it says that husbands are to bring up their children in the <sup>nurturer</sup> nurture of the Lord. "Nurture" is the same word translated "nourish". I am to nourish my wife. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO NOURISH? It means to promote her health and strength....

And it occurred to me that we have, here, a very beautiful picture of what Christ does for the believer. You know, Christ is our strength. He is our health. He nourishes us. He is the Lord of the church.

And I look at that and I say, "Lord, do you mean that?"...."Am I to be the same thing to my wife".....And the answer is "YES"....I am to nourish as a habit of life my wife. I am to promote her health and strength....

And you say, "HOW CAN I DO THAT?"....Come back to verse 18; "Be filled with the Holy Spirit."....And as Paul says in chapter 3, "Be strengthened with the Spirit of the inter man." You see, the Holy Spirit is my strength. And when I am under His control, then I can truly nourish my wife.

(20) It also says to cherish I like this....The word "cherish" means "to be a nurse" or "to impart warmth".

Husbands, we must look deep within ourselves.....DO OUR WIVES LOOK AT US AS BEING A LITTLE COLD.....A LITTLE INDIFFERENT.....

The Bible says we are to "cherish our wives as Christ did the church". And He, as a nurse, who loves the child that has been entrusted to his care, provides the warmth that child needs....

And the Bible teaches that the husband is to provide that warmth for his wife.....WHAT A BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATION.

Again, Christ will never leave us out in the cold....He is there. He will never leave us nor forsake us....And neither should the husband with his wife. HOW COULD I EVER HAVE SUCH WARMTH? HOW COULD I EVER HAVE SUCH STRENGTH TO NOURISH MY WIFE AND MY FAMILY....HOW?.....

There is only one way. Receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your saviour. When you receive Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within the believers. Then you have the ability to ~~live under the control of God's Holy Spirit~~ *provide that warmth - wd care*

(30) There is one other passage that I would like you to look at, as to the extent of this love. Would you turn over to Colossians chapter 3.... Colossians chapter 3 and verse 19....We have here a little statement which reflects much on our attitude.....Colossians 3:19 "Husbands love your wives." Now, please notice the next phrase...."AND DO NOT BE EMBITTERED AGAINST THEM".

That is a command. Never, under any circumstances, be bitter against your wife. I wonder.....how many things will happen in the homes and the lives of people attending church today that will violate this principle and cause bitterness? *I Wonder?*

Over and over again, all we hear *about* is bitterness and strife within the home...WHY?...I can't help but related it back, again, to being controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Men, what are we ~~saying~~ saying when there is bitterness in our hearts towards our wives?...Regardless of the reason.....WHAT ARE WE SAYING? We are saying that the old sin nature is controlling *our life*s, not the Holy Spirit. We are saying that I don't need God, I can do my own thing....

Husbands love your wives, and do not be embittered against them.'  
*God* ~~Are~~ *Am* you glad that the great bridegroom, Christ, is never bitter with *me*? Think about how often we go astray.....Think about how often we hurt the heart of God....How we violate His love for us. And yet, he is never bitter against us.

You know, God never gets mad at you....Oh, He gets mad at sin. God hates sin. But, God loves the sinner. And I am ~~glad~~ glad that the great bridegroom isn't bitter with anyone here today. He loves you. And He invites you to come to Him and find salvation and strength and health. He invites to you come to him and let him make your *life* and home a place where Christ is honored.....MAY GOD HELP US TO SEE THIS GREAT TRUTH....

LET US CLOSE IN PRAYER