

The Cross Centered Marriage

1 Peter 3:1-7

1 Thessalonians 2:8-13 - 8 Having thus a **fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives**, because you had become very dear to us. 9 For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, **how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God**. 10 You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; 11 just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, 12 so that you may **walk in a manner worthy of the God** who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. 13 And for this reason we also constantly **thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God**, which also performs its work in you who believe. NASB

In our text today, he tells us how this **Cross Centered Living** applies to **marriage**. He explains how the very **essence** of Christian **Marriage** is formed by the Cross and **Jesus self-denying** and **patient suffering** in order to do **God's will** at the Cross. This he explains is the **attitude** and essence of how we **relate to each other in marriage**, and so this becomes a very **practical** and powerful **guide** to how to glorify God in Christian Marriage.

Peter will explain in this text today that a **Cross Centered Marriage** is focused on doing **God's will** in the home,

intelligent recognition [of the marriage relation], honoring the woman as [physically] the weaker, but [realizing that you] are joint heirs of the grace (God's unmerited favor) of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered and cut off. [Otherwise you cannot pray effectively.] **AMP**

Application

In considering how we can **apply this text today**, **First**, let us consider a few **cruciform** marriage thoughts.

Cruciform marriage thoughts from Paul Tripp...

1. **"I am my own biggest marriage problem."** Unless and until we have enough **humility** to acknowledge our **own** great **failures** to **love** and **respect** our spouse properly, and learn to **examine ourselves** first, before ever being **critical** of our spouse, we will struggle in **immaturity** and pride. **Humility** is essential to a **Cross Centered Marriage**.
2. **"A good marriage** is a good marriage when each person says **"no" to themselves.**" This is **Cross Centered living**.
3. **"Love is willing self-sacrifice** for the good of another that **does not require reciprocation** or that the person being loved is **deserving.**" We love our spouse because **Christ has first loved us** and given us our spouse as a **gift**. We serve them and care for them out of **thankfulness** to Him.

possessing Christ's **self-denying attitude** and **virtuous** behavior toward each other. Husbands and wives must keep the **cross in focus** as they **follow Jesus** and do **God's will** in marriage. This is **precious** in the **sight of God** and will keep our **prayers** from being **hindered**. This is a **Cross Centered Marriage**.

Now in **Today's text 1 Peter 3:1-7**, we will see

- **V-3:1-2 – The Wife's Chaste and Respectful Submission**
- **V-3:3-6 – The Wife's Gentle and Quiet Spirit**
- **V-3:7 – Husbands Grant her honor**

Ephesians 5:22-24 - 22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, **as to the Lord**[the degree of submission]. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But **as the church is subject to Christ**[the degree of submission], so also the **wives ought to be to their husbands in everything**[the scope of submission]. NASB

The **NIV** renders this,

1 Peter 3:7 - 7 Husbands, in the same way **be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life**, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. **NIV**

Or consider the **Amplified** version...

1 Peter 3:7 - 7 In the same way you married men should **live considerately with [your wives], with an**

Second, let us consider a few points of a **husbands** living in an **understanding** way and being **sensitive** to what?

1. The marriage relation from **Ephesians 5. Sacrificial love** - The husband is to **love** their wife **as Christ loved the church** and gave Himself up for her. His love should be **self-sacrificing**, self-denying, considering **her before** himself, as Christ did.
2. The marriage relation from **Ephesians 5. Nourishing love** - The husbands love is to **nourish his wife** seeing to it that all her needs are met; physical, emotional, spiritual. Let him give himself to this **as** the great **priority** of his life.
3. The marriage relation from **Ephesians 5. Cherishing love** – The husband is to **cherish the wife** with great affection as his greatest treasure apart from Christ. Like **Christ delights** in His **Church**, the husband is to **fondly love** and **esteem** his wife with **ardent affection** as the gift of God that she is.
4. Remember to **grant her honor** as a fellow **heir** of the **grace of life**. The husband must learn to **enjoy** his **wife** and the **life** that they share together. When marriage becomes a **joy**, **God** is **most glorified** in it.

God's original design for man's role - This is the way God intended it before there was any sin in the world: sinless man, full of love, in his tender, strong leadership in relation to woman (**John Piper**)

God's original design for woman's role - sinless woman, full of love, in her joyful, responsive support for man's leadership (**John Piper**)

Biblical headship for the husband is the **divine calling** to take **primary responsibility** for Christ-like, servant leadership, protection and provision in the home. (**John Piper**)

Biblical submission for the wife is the divine calling to honor and affirm her husband's leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts (**John Piper**)