

Dates of Special Interest:

- *Agape Sunday - February 3rd - with Spinks visiting and a dinner*
- *Men's Adventure February 22 and 23 more information to follow*

HUSBANDS, GIVE THE GIFT OF KNOWING YOUR WIFE BY PASTOR JOHN MITCHELL JR

The month of February brings with it a special day for couples. On Valentine's Day, flowers, candy, dinner out, jewelry, cards, and more will be shared as couples attempt to show their love for each other. Husbands, this year in addition to those types of gifts, how about considering a renewed effort to give the gift God intends for you to give all the time? In 1 Peter 3:7, God commands husbands, "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered." Dwelling with your wife in knowledge, or understanding is the gift that should keep on giving to her.

What, then, does it mean to dwell with your wife in knowledge? It begins with recognition of God's plan for leading and submitting. The term, "likewise," is directing the reader to consider the new topic, husbands dwelling with their wives in understanding, in the light of the previous instruction. Previously, in 1 Peter, God's Word addressed government leaders and those submitting to government officials. It also addressed masters and those submitting to the masters. In each case, the believer in a leadership position is to do what is best for those being led. Likewise,

husbands, you have a God-given responsibility to lovingly lead your wife doing what is in her best interests.

Doing what is in your wife's best interests would include dwelling with her in understanding. Now, the fun begins as husbands aim to glorify Christ by looking to know their wives in order to lovingly lead them and help them become all they can be in Christ. But, isn't this the point where husbands say, "Where do I go from here?" The command is simple but the knowing is difficult. Thankfully, God gives us five practical helps.

1. "Dwell with them in understanding" = As you live with your wife, make the continual effort to think through who she is, and what are her needs. You should continually think about her in order to be prepared to be used of God to serve her needs. Paul explained it in Ephesians 5:33 by equating your own continual thoughts toward yourself with the same effort of thought toward your wife.
2. "giving honor to them" = God wants the husband to show special courtesies, respect, and kindness to his wife. Notice, it is not conditional, but unconditional honor. She is your God-given

helpmeet to be honored in sickness and in health, in richer or poorer, in youth and in age, in good times and in trials, and in whatever state she is, God calls you to honor your wife.

3. "as to the weaker vessel" = The vessel refers to the physical body. God has made men and women differently, and one of the differences, found in most cases, is the lesser physical strength of women compared to men. Therefore, husbands are to recognize the difference and honor her by helping and protecting her with the difference in mind. What physical help does she need from you to help her with the home?
4. "and being heirs together of the grace of life" = God wants husbands to be reminded and consider their wives in the light of the grace of God shown to them. Christ died for her! She is precious in His sight! The Holy Spirit indwells her and is working out her salvation! Thinking of her in this way will impact your life with her.
5. "that your prayers will not be hindered" = A husband who ignores his wife's needs failing to make the effort to

lovingly lead her can expect his prayers to be hindered. The term means your prayers will be interrupted because you are outside of the will of God. Knowing the need for the grace of God, and that the grace of God comes through prayer, there is serious motivation to know your wife.

Husband, give the gift of knowing your wife as you joyfully recognize God's plan for your marriage. She will benefit greatly and you will find great happiness in serving her.

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1 Peter 3:7