

9. Learning to Live as a Godly Husband and Example

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn how to help godly women learn to develop a submissive attitude and a gentle and quiet spirit. We saw that such a spirit will often be used by the Lord to draw husbands that are not Christians to Christ. In some cases, the husband becomes a Christian before his wife. In our topic today, we are going to see how a husband learns to develop a gentle and quiet spirit that will draw his wife, his children and others to Christ.

In our topic today, we see that godly husbands are also to follow the example of Christ and develop a submissive attitude and a gentle and quiet spirit. 1 Peter 3:7 says, “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.” The word that is translated “likewise” means “*equally or in the same way.*” This word was used in verse one to show that wives were to be submissive and follow the example of Christ. 1 Peter 5:5 says, “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’” Here, we see that younger people are told to be submissive to their elders. In our passage, we are given instructions about the way that husbands are to show their submissive attitude.

First, husbands are to live with their wives in an understanding way. This same word is translated “knowledge” in 2 Peter 3:18 where we read, “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.” Here, we see that we are to grow in our understanding of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the same way, a husband is to live with his wife in such a way that he grows in his understanding of the needs and feelings of his wife so that he can meet those needs and understand those feelings.

Second, husbands are to give honor to their wives. To give honor to a wife, a husband must have respect and place a high value on his wife and then treat her in such a way that he shows the value that he has placed on her. This same root word is used twice in 1 Peter 2:17 where we read, “Honor all *people*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.” A husband is to recognize that his wife is physically weaker and provide both physical and emotional protection to his wife.

Third, husbands are to understand that as husband and wife they are heirs together of the grace of life. In Genesis 2:18 God said, “And the LORD God said, ‘*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.’” God recognized the need of Adam long before Adam recognized that need. Then, when God brought Adam and Eve together, God said in Genesis 2:24, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” God joined Adam and Eve together so that they would be one and gave that as the model for all marriages to follow. God also said that they were to become one flesh, which speaks of the unity that they are to have as husband and wife.

Fourth, husbands are told that if they will show this kind of a submissive attitude toward their wife their prayers will not be hindered. We saw in the earlier verses that if the wife becomes a Christian

first the husband would be won by the changed behavior of the wife. Here, we see that if the husband becomes a Christian first the wife will be won to Christ by the changed behavior of the husband. As a result, his prayers for the salvation of his wife will not be hindered because his changed actions will be used by the Lord to draw his wife to Christ.

We go on to read in 1 Peter 3:8-9, “Finally, all *of you be* of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, *be* tenderhearted, *be* courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.” Here, we see how all Christians are to relate to one another so that others will listen as they share the Gospel. First, we are to be of one mind. Here, we see that we are to all learn to have this same submissive attitude toward the Lord and toward each another as Christians. Ephesians 5:21 says, “Submitting to one another in the fear of God.” As we submit to one another, we will also seek to show the love of Christ to one another because we will have the same heart attitudes.

Second, we are to have compassion for one another. The word that is translated “compassion” means “*to suffer with one another or to feel the pain of each other.*” Such an attitude will cause us to demonstrate the love of Christ to one another during times of suffering or loss. Third, we are to love as brothers. 1 Peter 1:22 says, “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.” Here, we see that as brethren we are to love one another fervently with a pure heart. In fact, this basic thought is repeated five times in the book of 1 Peter.

Fourth, we are to be tenderhearted toward one another. The only other place this word is used in the New Testament is in Ephesians 4:32 where we read, “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.” In both verses, this word means “*to have a love and compassion that comes from the heart.*” Fifth, we are to be courteous to one another. This word means “*to be friendly or kind so that we treat each other with respect.*” Sixth, we are not to try and get even with each other and we are given two things that we are to avoid. If someone does evil to us, we are not to get even by doing evil back to that person. If someone speaks evil of us, we are not to get even by speaking evil about that person.

Seventh, in contrast to the evil actions and words mentioned in the previous point, we are to give a blessing instead. The word that is translated “blessing” means “*to speak well of another person.*” God called us to receive the blessing of eternal life by forgiving our sins when we came to Him in repentance. As a result, we are to forgive others who do evil to us so that they can learn how to receive that same blessing. Galatians 3:13-14 says, “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” We became spiritual children of Abraham and have received eternal life.

1 Peter 3:10-12 says, “For ‘He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him

seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.” These three verses are taken from Psalm 34:12-16. Peter used these verses from Psalm 34 to show us that Christians can experience a life of peace and joy even in a world where there is much suffering and evil.

As Christians, we make choices in our lives every day. Some of those choices allow us to experience peace and joy while others cause us to experience conflict. If we choose the things mentioned in the previous verses, we will normally experience peace and joy. The quotes from Psalm 34 show that some of those choices are choices about the things that we will say. If we want to love life and see good days, we will choose to ask the Lord to give us His strength to avoid speaking evil about others. James 3:8-9 warns us, “But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.” We will also ask for His strength to avoid speaking words of deceit.

In addition to asking the Lord to give us strength to avoid sinful speaking, we can also ask the Lord for strength to avoid evil and carry out those actions that are pleasing to the Lord. The Lord will give us His strength to turn away from evil and do good instead. Galatians 6:10 says, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” As we walk with the Lord, we will be looking for opportunities to do those things that are good and pleasing in His sight.

The Lord will also give us His strength to seek His peace. The word that is translated “to seek” means “*to seek something so that we find it.*” The word that is translated “to pursue” means “*to run swiftly to catch a person or a thing.*” James 3:17-18 says, “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” We help others make peace with God by sharing the Gospel with them so that they place their faith in Christ. Christ has called us as Christians to be peacemakers as we explain to others how to have peace with God.

As we do the things that Peter quoted from Psalm 34, we know that the Lord is watching over us and He is listening to our prayers. In contrast, we are told that the Lord sets His face against those who do evil. As a result, we want to give our physical and spiritual children an example to follow as we show them how to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord. Proverbs 16:7 says, “When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.” There are times when we will suffer for doing the will of the Lord. However, the Lord will give us an inner peace and joy in such circumstances. The Lord will also work in the lives of those who treat us as enemies and some of them will be drawn to Christ. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to be a godly example to others.