

CouplesInBloom.com – Nurture Her

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God nurtures us, the Bride of Christ, with an abundance of encouragement including nearly a million words in the Bible plus countless personal words from the Holy Spirit. As husbands, we *need* to provide our brides with an abundance of encouragement as well.

Peter the apostle was married and has first-hand revelation in the Bible for couples. Our “*Forsaking For What*” article on CouplesInBloom.com looks at God’s (through Peter’s) pattern for managing distrust within a close relationship. This article today focuses on specifically *what* wives need to be encouraged *with* for intimacy to grow.

The difference between **perception** and **reception** eventually manifests. What we *think* we give our spouse may not be what they actually *get*. Communication is more than input and output: it is *knowing* our spouse’s heart, mind and guts- and then processing those with God’s- and with our own-. Nurture is intimacy in action. It cares for our spouse in the deepest way possible, builds strong bonds between spouses, and prevents problems.

Our “*Disabled To Love*” article on CouplesInBloom.com says the *spark* in intimacy is *seeking* the hidden treasure in the other person. 1 Peter 3 ⇨ says husbands who *provide* treasure for their wife *nurture* intimacy. *Seeking starts* intimacy; *nurture grows* intimacy.

Combining individual word meanings of 1 Peter 3:7 says ⇨ **Husbands: pay the price of valuing your wife (who by God’s design lacks bodily vigor, spiritual knowledge and power) so your wishes are not frustrated and cut down from the start.** This is an excellent definition of nurture. Pessimists call this “high maintenance”. Optimists call this “low hanging fruit”. God actually tells husbands here how to be their bride’s hero!

This reveals the husband’s own spiritual experience, whether he has received God’s love for himself and un-hypocritically loves his wife in the same unconditional way. Selfish men feel burdened by the hard work of figuring out how to love their wives. They need to learn from God’s love that love is fruitful ministry, not loathsome maintenance.

Our “*Offerings Overcome Offenses*” article on CouplesInBloom.com breaks 1 Peter 3:7 into bite-sized chunks for us guys to get a hold of. The next verse *literally* says to “have a fellow feeling” with our spouse ⇨ 1 Peter 3:8. The verse after that *literally* says to not return evil for evil (*slander*) **OR** neutral for neutral (*worthless*), so that we can inherit a blessing! ⇨ 1 Peter 3:9. God says wives need consistent flooding with positive.

Some of Peter’s literal marriage insights for the women reading this: “Your humble and keep-your-seat spirit rates very high with God” ⇨ 1 Peter 3:4. “Your conversation is coupled *with* fear” ⇨ 1 Peter 3:2 and “your submission is verbalized *without* fear” ⇨ 1 Peter 3:6. This means you are careful in speech and secure in your husband’s leadership.

So, guys, we now know how to **nurture our wife**. It’s always about *knowing* what’s going on inside her (relationships have people that *relate*) and using *that* to define how we communicate **the value of who she is**, *not* merely what she *does*. Don’t worry about being loved in return: loving her God’s way energizes her more than anything else. I have been on both sides of this and know what works (God’s Word) and what doesn’t (mine).

Feel free to email me from the CouplesInBloom.com **CONTACT** page. ♥ Loren Falzone