

CouplesInBloom.com – Raising Your Wife

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1 Peter 3:7 ⇨ "...husbands, live together according to knowledge, giving honor to the wife as to the **weaker vessel**, the female, as **truly being co-heirs** together of the grace of life, not cutting off your prayers." The root of this word **weaker** involves the inability to **confirm**, and to **stand**. God distributed qualities between male and female, and the Bible literally says the female needs help being **established** in **spiritual knowledge and power**.

Her inherent **weakness** promotes several characteristics in her marriage relationship:

- **Variability**; this can **frustrate** her husband, who would be wise to learn to expect it.
- **Vulnerability**; this can **endanger** her and should prompt her husband to protect her.
- **Neediness**; this can **exhaust** her husband, but is his opportunity to minister to her.

Men can be deceived by women ⇨ Proverbs 7:7-23 and women can be deceived by men ⇨ 2 Timothy 3:6, but God has ordered the **husband** responsible for spiritual knowledge and power in marriage ⇨ Ephesians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 11:3. The original and best example of this is with the Bride of Christ (i.e. Christians, the church) and Jesus Christ.

“How can I minister to a wife I don’t understand... and who is very frustrating???”

Husbands might argue that their job is harder than God’s because He understands her and they don’t. God answered this argument in the first Scripture above, 1 Peter 3:7 ⇨ “giving honor” translates “**value**”, and the root word meaning is “**pay a price or penalty**”.

“A husband ministers to his wife by paying her (the weaker vessel) as NOT weaker.”

Ephesians 5 ⇨ says the way Christ treats us (the Bride of Christ) is how a husband is to treat his wife. We actually **ARE** weaker than God but He treats us **as NOT weaker**. The reason why God honestly **CAN** treat us **as NOT weaker** is **because** He chose to **pay the penalty** for us, the Bride of Christ (**the weaker vessel**). When a husband treats his wife (**the weaker vessel**) **as NOT weaker** like ⇨ 1 Peter 3:7 says, look at what happens:

- He pays the penalty for her weakness, including refusing to return evil for evil.
- He loves her as Christ loves the Church, the Bride of Christ: by choice, not earned.
- His prayers are not cut off from being answered because he obeyed the Answerer.
- His obedience **raises his wife** from **the weaker vessel** to **truly being co-heirs** with him in God’s grace. **A wife’s weakness + a husband’s ministry = he is her hero.**

As Christianity is the best romance story ever, so Christian marriage is designed to be. Husbands who refuse to love this way *and* wives who refuse to be loved this way limit themselves to a lesser love life, and maybe a divorce. God **made** marriage; do it **His** way.

Managing the moment: ⇨ 1 Peter 3:7 has four steps for husbands dealing with a weak (**variable, vulnerable, needy**) wife who may be **frustrating, dangerous** and **exhausting**:

- **Stay**: “live together” - don’t be a coward and run away; cool down time is okay.
- **Learn**: “according to knowledge” - find the way to truly understand **her** viewpoint.
- **Pay**: “giving honor” - communicate value to her **as NOT weaker** but as a **co-heir**.
- **Pray**: “not cut-off prayers”: God Himself will teach her what she needs to learn if **you Stay, Learn and Pay** first. When obeyed, God’s Word works. ♥ Loren Falzone