

Three Ways to Treat Your Wife or Mom in a Christ-honoring Way' 1 Peter 3:7

I. Spend time with her

A. *'Live with your wives'* This means much more than just sharing the same address. The husband needs to spend quality time with his wife. Some men have gone AWOL: 'absent without leaving', they are home, but you'd never know it.

B. Spend time with her. Please don't take her for granted. A Christian missionary once said: *'many in the world are dying for a piece of bread; many more are dying for a little love.'* Some of those are mothers.

C. And it says: *'in an understanding way.'* Ignorance is dangerous in most walks of life but especially so in marriage.

II. Show her respect

A. This one is so important the Lord put it right into the 10 commandments: Honor your father and mother. Ex. 20:12 Honor means: 'to show respect, to care, to support, to treat graciously.' Also, Peter is not suggesting here that the wife is _____ mentally, emotionally, or spiritually, but rather I believe he is just making the common sense statement that generally, men are stronger than women physically. We know this; the Olympic records bear this out.

B. So, the husband should treat his wife like an expensive, beautiful vase which has in it a priceless treasure. The husband needs to protect his wife, physically and emotionally.

C. When young couples start dating, the guy is courteous and thoughtful. Sad to say, for too many men, once they get married, many a husband forgets to be kind and starts to take his wife for granted. Men forget that happiness in a home is made up of many little things. Big hurts can grow from small resentments. Men, keep doing the little things that show you respect her.

III. Help her out.

A. Help her in many ways. Help her around the house. Help her with the kids. But especially we see here to help her grow spiritually. Why? Because she is a co-heir with you of the grace of life! This was a very radical idea back then. No man then or since, has treated women better and more appropriately than Jesus. Remember, even dying in great pain on the cross, He made sure that His mother would be taken care of! Jn. 19:26,27

B. And notice the amazing and powerful result Peter puts on this. He says treat your wife right, as the co-equal heir of God that she is, otherwise, God will not answer your _____! Do you want your prayers answered? Then treat your wife, the mother of your children right! God says it is that important.

Conclusion: Peter taught us that we should honor our wives, the mothers of our children. Even the 10 commandments teach us to honor our mothers. I hope you will treat your mother in a special way today. Men, you have two choices before you on this day: you can honor them or dishonor them.

So today especially, we thank God for mothers. Their role is indispensable. How much each of us owes to a mother's love and care. Thank you moms! Dads can build a house; it takes a mom to build a home. _____ is God's idea. It is a good idea.

Ask God to help you honor your mother. Pray for her. A mother's love is often a great picture of God's love. The love of God is so radical that it cannot be earned and it cannot be lost. For God's love is not a response to our love but a love we are asked to respond to: *'This is love; not that we loved God, but that He loved us.'* 1 Jn. 4:10; also *'we love because He first loved us.'* 1 Jn. 4:19

Happy Mother's Day!