Sermon Notes for January 19, 2014

A Husband Who Loves His Wife

I Peter 3:7

Introduction

We live in a changing world.

In the U.S. the percentage of married households has been declining. Today 47% of households are married. (In 1990 it was 55%.)

People are waiting longer to get married.

- Men – Average age is 29. (In the 1980s it was 25.)
- Women – Average age is 27. (In the 1980s it was 22.)

Yet over 90% of adults want to get married.

So how do we build a strong and healthy marriage?

A husband who loves his wife will

I. Be considerate of her needs.

He will live with his wife in an understanding way.

Marriage is the most intimate of all human relationships.

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and they will become one flesh.” Genesis 2:24

We need time together as a couple.

“If a man has recently married, he must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid on him. For one year he is to be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he has married.” Deuteronomy 24:5

What is it that a woman wants from a man?

Willard Harley in His Needs Her Needs identifies five needs.

- Affection
- Intimate Conversation
- Honesty and Openness
- Financial Support
- Family Commitment
Do you know what your wife’s needs are?

A husband who loves his wife will

II. Treat her with honor and respect.

He will treat her with respect as the weaker partner.

Weaker in what sense?

Peter is talking about physical strength primarily.

Part of living in an understanding way is helping your wife to live within her limits and sharing in the work at home.

But there is another aspect to mention too.

Men are never to use their physical strength to bully or hurt their wife.

We are to treat our wife with respect as an heir with us of the gracious gift of life.

Men and women are equal before God. Galatians 3:28

But equality before God doesn’t mean we are the same. Men and women are different by God’s design.

A godly husband will honor and respect his wife.

- He will love and protect her.
- He will value her wisdom and abilities.
- He will prize her and help her to grow as a joint heir in Christ.

A husband who loves his wife will do all of these things

III. So that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Peter is saying that to fail to do these things is sin.

“Your sins have hidden his face from you so that he will not hear.” Isaiah 59:2

How can we say we love God and hate our brother? I John 2:9-11

How can we say we love God and hate our spouse? We can’t.

God calls us to love our wife as Christ loves the church. Ephesians 5:25

Do you love your wife unconditionally?

Are you willing to give up some of your “rights” for her?
Conclusion

A husband who loves his wife will

- Accept the responsibility to be the spiritual leader of his home.
- Not demand to be served, but will give of himself to serve.
- Be considerate of his wife and her needs.
- Treat her with honor and respect as co-heirs in Christ.