

Peter's View on Marriage

Shortly, I will write out what might pass for a lengthy exhortation from one of the Apostles.

What I am about to write might be seen by many as one of the most wonderful descriptions of how a marriage should be conducted. What you will read is actually a rewording taken from 1 Peter 5:1-5, changing the address. Peter is addressing the elders in a church.

I have written the following because I have come to the conclusion most Christian's concept of the marriage is that the husband and wife relationship should be conducted like Peter was exhorting the elders to lead the church. This is far from correct!

I have reworded Peter's instructions so you might see how severely this misunderstanding has taken over the current marital relationships in the church today. Many who read this may read it and think how it puts it so wonderfully. This is very wrong. We shall look at

what Peter actually had to say about this after a look at this rewrite.

Please remember, the following is not scripture, or even a paraphrase, it is actually a false teaching:

FALSE TEACHING

Husbands, I would heartily encourage you, who am also an husband: as a shepherd takes care of his sheep, likewise take care of your wife. Take on the responsibility of this care with a willing mind. There should not be any 'role playing' simply because it's something you have to do, or because failure here will make you look bad to others. No, do it because you truly want to. Another big point to hold to is to not 'rule' over your wife, as if you were her lord and she your servant. No, she belongs to God, not you. Husband, your responsibility is to be an example to your wife. If you lead your marriage in this way,

God will crown you with a crown of glory.

A word to the wives, cooperate with your husband, as one who shares a burden.

Both husband and wife, cooperate with each other walking humbly for God will stand against you if you walk as one who dominates another. God will give grace for a wonderful marriage if you both walk humbly in your relationship with each other. Mutual cooperation calls for God's blessing.

Here is the passage the above was distorted from:

1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords

over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. 5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

1 Peter 5:1-5

What is scary is that I believe many would fight to defend the message portrayed in the twisted rendering. I would like to move ahead quickly with my point here. Peter did a marvelous thing in more ways than one when he outlined the position of the elders in the church. Since most today seem to think that description fits exactly to what a marriage should be, Peter's writing actually goes to show the very opposite.

The elder's description is not at all what a marriage relationship is to be like. Read what Peter wrote shortly before this passage in 1 Peter:

5 For after this manner

in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: 6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. 7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

1 Peter 3:5-7

Peter lays out a description of the place for the wife and husband. In the middle verse - 6, Peter specifically tells the reader the wife is to hold her husband as her lord (the term also means master). Just a little later Peter said the elders were specifically NOT to operate in such a position.

We must consider that, coming from Peter just chapters apart, the position of 'lordship' and 'not lordship' was very intentionally delineated. From his choice of words

in the issue of one being lord over the other, we cannot but honestly see that the rewording I did of 1 Peter 5:1-5 has to be totally unacceptable. It completely violates the position of an elder and completely destroys the submission of the wife and the authority of the husband. To take the position of my errant rewording of 5:1-5 is to encourage a corrupt marriage relationship.

If you were to reverse this, taking Peter's instructions found in 1 Peter 3:5-7, and switch it for elders and the church, how terrifying a spectacle you end up with! Such gives the elders the power of lords and places the congregation as his property. Such smells of a view straight from Rome!

Hopefully such a consideration will help those confused on this subject to see just how dangerous it is to take positions of authority and relationship, the way God has ordained it, and switch and trade as we see fit. We must beware the tendency to suit some personal tastes cultured by contemporary society.