

## SERMON OUTLINE

<b>SERMON TITLE:</b>	Five Ways to Be a Successful Husband
<b>SERMON REFERENCE:</b>	1 Peter 3:7-9
<b>LWF SERMON NUMBER:</b>	#2229

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) As dad goes, so goes the home.
  - i) The problem in most homes today is drop-out dads who are failing to be what they ought to be.
- b) Marriages may be made in Heaven, but the problems and battles are worked out right here on Earth.
- c) The best thing any father can do for his children is to love their mother.
- d) 1 Peter 3:7-9
  - i) We find five ways in this passage of Scripture that husbands should do for and with their wives.
    - (1) These are five ways to be a successful husband.

2) PRACTICE TOGETHERNESS AND INTIMACY WITH YOUR WIFE (1 PETER 3:7)

- a) The deepest craving of a wife is total togetherness with her husband.
  - i) Actually, this is what marriage is all about; that we should be one flesh.
- b) The word “intimate” comes from a Latin word meaning “inmost.”
  - i) It does not have sexual overtones.
  - ii) It means opening up and sharing; becoming one flesh.
- c) 1 Peter 3:7
  - i) The wording used in this passage for “dwell with them” is the same that is used when Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit coming into the world.
    - (1) As Christians, the Holy Spirit dwells with us.
    - (2) If you are a Christian, then your body is an earthly temple, a house; and both you and Jesus dwell in the same house through the Holy Spirit.
      - (a) This is “dwelling together.”
  - ii) Husband and wife are to dwell together in the same house with this kind of intimacy.
    - (1) It may include physical intimacy, but it goes far deeper than that.
      - (a) There can be physical relationships without intimacy, and there can be intimacy without the physical relationship.
    - (2) Husbands and wives should desire to dwell together in the same house.
- d) Intimacy has many facets to it.
  - i) There is verbal intimacy.
    - (1) Learn how to share your secrets, your hopes, plans and dreams.
    - (2) This not only includes verbal communication but also includes our emotions.
      - (a) Laugh together, cry together; learn to share your fears, heartaches and joys.
      - (b) Learn to have an emotional oneness.
  - ii) It involves intellectual intimacy.
    - (1) Learn to share your dreams, ideas, politics, theology, etc.
    - (2) Be free to talk with one another about the thoughts of your heart.

- iii) There is social intimacy.
    - (1) This is where we enjoy the same games, get together, the same friends and same kind of recreation.
  - iv) There is spiritual intimacy.
    - (1) A wife desires a husband who will pray with her and share the things of God with her.
  - v) Physical intimacy
    - (1) This is where two become one flesh physically.
  - e) A husband needs to practice total togetherness with his wife.
    - i) Your wife desires, needs and deserves that.
- 3) PRACTICE UNDERSTANDING WITH YOUR WIFE (1 PETER 3:7)
- a) A literal translation of this passage says to “live together with good sense.”
  - b) Men and women are different.
    - i) Men and women are equal; they are not identical.
    - ii) God made us different.
      - (1) We have been and will always be equal, yet we have never been and never will be identical.
    - iii) There are many people working hard to try to attain an equality they already have, and many are fighting over the fact that they are different and will never be anything other than different.
    - iv) We are headed for trouble if we don’t understand the equality and the differences that God made when He made us in the beginning male and female.
      - (1) God called His creation good.
        - (a) Genesis 1:31
        - (2) The devil has been trying ever since to blur the distinction between men and women.
    - v) The differences between men and women have nothing to do with equality; we have sameness of worth but difference of function.
  - c) God designed the man to be the initiator and the woman to be the responder.
    - i) This is built into our spiritual nature; we love God because He first loved us.
      - (1) 1 John 4:19
      - (2) Jesus is the bridegroom of the church.
      - (3) God the Father is the Heavenly Father.
    - ii) The woman desires, by her nature, to have a husband who will lead her and her home.
      - (1) This gives her a sense of security.
    - iii) If a husband is weak and will not lead and the wife has to assume leadership, then she will become frustrated and angry.
      - (1) She will think less of him and less of herself.

- d) Men tend to think in straight lines logically, and women tend to think emotionally (spider-web thinking).
  - i) This does not mean that men cannot be emotional or that women do not think logically.
    - (1) They can simply approach things from a different perspective.
  - ii) A husband may misread his wife's emotional response and accuse her of being unreasonable; he can also come across as being harsh, unfeeling or cold.
  - iii) Wives want their husbands to understand, to share and to care.
- e) Men tend to be doers, and women tend to be be-ers.
  - i) Men tend to be goal-oriented and driven.
    - (1) His greatest fulfillment is doing his work.
  - ii) A woman's greatest fulfillment is generally in her home: her children and her relationships.
  - iii) A man is more interested in immediate results; a woman is more interested in long-term relationships.
- f) Men tend to be silent thinkers, while women tend to be talkers.
- g) Men tend to look for success, and women tend to look for security.
  - i) A man seems to see his work as an extension of himself.
  - ii) The woman sees her home as an extension of herself.
    - (1) It is frustrating for a wife if her husband doesn't show any concern for things around the house and allows everything to become cluttered.
    - (2) Fixing things and taking care of things around the house shows that he cares.

#### 4) GIVE HONOR TO YOUR WIFE (1 PETER 3:7)

- a) In this passage of Scripture, giving honor literally means to mark her off as having great value.
  - i) Intimacy and togetherness are built on valuing and expressing appreciation for your mate.
- b) Sometimes a wife is not given honor in her own home.
- c) A wife fills many different roles in her home and family.
  - i) She's a meal planner, a nurse and counselor.
  - ii) She's a policeman and judge, settling internal disputes with the children.
  - iii) She's a clothier and financial planner.
  - iv) She's a teacher, a cheerleader and nursery worker.
  - v) She's a cook, a seamstress, a gardener, an administrator, a spiritual advisor and interior decorator.
  - vi) To her husband, she is a confidante, companion, partner, comforter, and much more.
  - vii) She's a church member, neighbor, volunteer, friend, and gracious entertainer to her community.
- d) How can you honor your wife?
  - i) Put her on a pedestal.

- (1) Not because it is psychologically smart, but because you adore her.
  - ii) Let the children know how much you love and honor her.
  - iii) Praise her in front of her friends.
  - iv) Look into her eyes, face to face and heart to heart, and verbalize your praise to her.
  - v) Praise her not only for her physical charm but also for her character traits that make her the wonderful person she is.
- 5) SHARE FREELY WITH YOUR WIFE (1 PETER 3:7)
- a) Husbands and wives should understand that they have an equal inheritance as children of God.
    - i) In Jesus, there is neither male nor female, Jew nor Greek, bond nor free.
      - (1) Galatians 3:28
    - ii) We are one in the Lord Jesus Christ, and your wife needs to be treated as a full partner.
      - (1) In marriage, it is share and share alike.
  - b) More than anything else, prayer is the mark of sharing fully.
    - i) 1 Peter 3:7
    - ii) Many men fail to pray with their wives.
      - (1) One reason for this is because men are designed with a hard, outer shell.
        - (a) A husband's God-given assignment is be provider and protector.
          - (i) In the Garden of Eden, Adam's job was to keep and tend the garden.
            - 1. If Adam had been doing his job, Eve would not have been deceived because Adam had dominion over the serpent.
            - 2. Genesis 1:26
          - (ii) Genesis 2:15
        - (2) Men do not mind praying to God, but they generally don't want to share with someone else.
          - (a) They are okay with taking the roof off, but they don't like letting the walls down.
    - iii) You cannot pray with someone else without total intimacy and transparency.
    - iv) A wife wants her husband to pray with her for several reasons:
      - (1) It says that he recognizes her as a spiritual entity.
      - (2) It says that he acknowledges her spiritual worth.
      - (3) He has a genuine interest in her spiritual growth.
      - (4) He has time for her.
      - (5) It says that she is part of his spiritual life; they don't have a "his" or "her" relationship but an "ours" relationship.
      - (6) He desires to have spiritual leadership in their home.
      - (7) He is tending to his duties as the spiritual leader.

- 6) DEAL GENTLY WITH YOUR WIFE (1 PETER 3:7-8)
  - a) The word “weaker” in this passage does not mean inferior.
    - i) A sledgehammer is stronger than a porcelain teacup, but that doesn’t mean the sledgehammer has more value.
    - ii) God made us different that He might make us one.
  - b) Husbands need to learn tenderness.
    - i) Be of compassion.
      - (1) 1 Peter 3:8
        - (a) The word “compassion” literally means “with feeling.”
        - (b) You are tender when you feel with her; when you understand and care.
      - ii) “Love as brethren.”
        - (1) 1 Peter 3:8
          - (a) The word translated “brethren” here does not mean just friends like a couple of guys or a couple of girls.
          - (b) The word for “love” is the word for friendship love.
        - (2) Your best friend ought to be your wife.
      - iii) “Be pitiful.”
        - (1) 1 Peter 3:8
        - (2) This means you hurt when she hurts; you love her as you love your own body.
      - iv) “Be courteous.”
        - (1) 1 Peter 3:8
        - (2) People tend to be more courteous to those outside the family than to those who are inside the family.
        - (3) Courtesy is love in the little things.
          - (a) Love is more than a noun; it is a verb, and it means to do things.
  - 7) CONCLUSION
    - a) The most wonderful thing on Earth is a Christian home.
      - i) The nearest thing to Heaven that we have today is our Christian homes.
    - b) You cannot have a Christian home if you are not a Christian.
    - c) If you want a Christian home, then give your heart to Christ today.
    - d) Husband, you can love your wife so much more if Jesus Christ is number one in your life.
    - e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
    - f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      - i) Romans 3:23
      - ii) Romans 10:9-10
      - iii) Romans 10:13
      - iv) Acts 16:31
      - v) John 3:16