

HONOR—THE INVESTMENT A GODLY HUSBAND MAKES IN HIS WIFE

1 Peter 3:7b

INTRODUCTION

The story, *Johnny Lingo's Eight-Cow Wife*
(by Patricia McGerr, Reader's Digest [2/88], pp. 138-141).

1 Peter 3:7 says a solid marriage requires husbands who lead their wives with **knowledge** and treat their wives with **honor**.

1. Acknowledging Your Wife's Status as a Child of God.

The first phrase, *yet showing them honor as coheirs of the grace of life*, recognizes that men and women in Christ are both positionally and personally equal in the view of the Creator.
1 Peter 1:3-5; 2:9; Galatians 3:28

The differences come in the function God designed for each gender to fulfill in marriage in this physical life.

This should not surprise us because God tells us there is a hierarchy within the Trinity and Scripture tells us that God has established hierarchies of authority in all the dimensions of human life.

2. Granting Your Wife the Honor her status with God deserves.

Some practical ways to honor your wife:

A. Keep tuned in to the feelings of your Wife.

"Big resentments often grow out of small hurts." Warren Wiersbe
Husbands need to draw out of their wives honest admissions of what they are feeling.

"Giving honor to your wife" does not mean "giving in to her all the time." Warren Wiersbe

B. See to it that she knows she has no rivals for your affections or interests.

Love must be spoken. Say the words, "I love you."

Honor must be shown even when you don't think your wife deserves it.

C. Carry the financial burden of family income.

God built men to bear the burden of providing for and protecting their families. Ephesians 5:28-29; Genesis 3:17-19.

Cultural pressures that are driving wives out of the home to work.

1) College Loan Debt.

2) Loss of contentment with material simplicity.

3) Devaluation of homemaking.

New York Times article: "Most people with any concept of children's basic needs understand that the anger and despair observable in the youth culture—is the effect of emotional abandonment by overworking materialistic parents and the destabilization of the family by divorce."

D. Honor your Wife by Cultivating Romance with her.

Husbands tend to think their wives should be able to read their minds and know what their needs are. If you think your wife can read your mind, just ask yourself, can I read her's?

Men, if you want physical intimacy with your wife—a perfectly natural and godly desire--

Peter would say you will be careful to grant her honor by being her loving coach and greatest cheerleader.

One last comment: men, you must see to it that one of the most dishonoring things to women and wives is purged from your home—pornography.

3. Prayers unhindered—A Key Blessing that Flows to Husbands who Honor their Wives.

so that your prayers will not be hindered.

The husband who neglects to honor and cherish his wife will find his spiritual power is cut off. He will feel a distinct sense of distance in his relationship with God—especially in his praying. Hebrews 12:3-11

Brothers, in those times when you feel you are unable to motivate your wife in an area where you see a need for growth or change, and you see that she is either unwilling to listen or is too insecure to listen, private prayer is where you must go. That is the place where God will turn your perplexity into peace and your anger into forgiveness and love.