

“Love Life & See Good Days!”

I. **INTRO:**

A. A familiar Mother Goose rhyme goes:

Pussy cat, Pussy cat, where have you *been*? - I've been to London to visit the Queen.

Pussy cat, Pussy cat, what did you *do there*? - I frightened a little mouse under the chair.

Really! That's it!

1. Like that cat, Christians sometimes settle for petty involvements, trivial pursuits, chasing mice; **when** we have the opportunity to *spend time with royalty*, with the King!
2. Instead of remaining content with *minimum* daily requirements, we can **deepen** our relationship with God and **grow** into maturity.

B. **Q:** Husbands, are you working on understanding your wife? Wives, is he trying? Do you think we are doing a good job as a church in promoting Jesus to our world? How do we in the church treat each other? Would you sum up your life here on earth as, “*Loving life & seeing good days*”? (Practical Pete strikes again!)

1. I'll just say “guilty as charged” against all counts...*let's learn together.*

C. **Outline:** Considerate Husbands & Loving Life & Seeing Good Days!

II. **CONSIDERATE HUSBANDS! (7)**

A. **4-FOLD RESPONSIBILITY!** (Women could handle 6)

B. **[1] UNDERSTANDING!** (7a)

C. **Dwell with them w/understanding** - that is, w/a real spiritual perception of **duty & relationship**. (not, what's her fav ice-cream!)

D. **Dwell w/them** - is a *present active participle*. “*be continually dwelling together with*”.

1. **Not** once or twice, **not** just as newlyweds, **not** occasionally; **but** continual ongoing, all the time, for all our married days, until death do we part dwelling!
2. It's *too easy* to substitute making a good living **or** providing physical/material needs for the family. **Rather than** sharing their time, their words, their feelings.
 - a) Once I was counseling a friend, who went through a whole list of what he was providing for his family: *I work hard, I bring home the bacon, I provide for my family, I protect my wife, I provide a home to live in, etc.* He later told me I asked him, “**then, what's the difference between you & an Ape?**”

- E. **W/understanding** - in accordance w/the things he should know. Information that is crucial
1. Remember **love your husbands** in 1st century time meant...**what???**
 2. Peter seeks to walk the husbands through, what it means to this culture of men, who **looked down on** their wives.
- F. Any knowledge that would be beneficial to the husband-wife relationship.
1. Knowledge of her strengths & weaknesses in the **phys, emotional, & sp realm**.
 2. This only comes by regular study of Gods word, & regular unhurried times of private fellowship together.
 3. Husbands do you know what mothering 3 children requires of her?
 4. Do you know the pressure of working full time, then coming home & working full time(w/husband & children)?
- G. The cruelty which is hardest to bear is often **not deliberate** but the product of **sheer thoughtlessness!!!** Ouch (not nec commission, but omission)
- H. **[2] HONOR!** (7b)
- I. **Honor** - carries the idea of showing **esteem & thankfulness** of the highest degree.
- J. See, a husband who is **far removed** probably will have little **honor** to offer; A husband who is generally **proud** will **not appreciate** his wife.
- K. Peter says, Husbands should treat their wives like **priceless porcelain vases** & treat them with **gentle love**.
- L. **Tim Allen**, when asked by TV Guide what makes a perfect dad. “Dad needs to show an incredible amount of **respect and humor and friendship** toward his mate so the kids understand their parents are **sexy, they're fun, they do things together, they're best friends**. Kids learn by **example**. If I respect Mom, they're going to respect Mom.”¹
- M. **As to** - Peter still is explaining **how** we are to **honor** our wife.
- N. **2 key words** to explain how husbands are to **honor** their wife.
- O. **Vessel** - useful container or instrument. **Weaker** - fragile
1. They are a **very delicate & useful** vessel. **Thus**, esteem her as **very delicate & handle her carefully**.
 2. They are **Priceless Porcelain, Costly China!**
 3. This is a call to gentleness men! “**Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.**” (Col.3:19)
 4. Don't take advantage of any kind of **weakness**.
- P. Wives may or may not be weaker than their husbands in some way, **but this is not** Peter's point in this passage.

¹ Marriage Partnership, Vol. 12, no. 4.

- Q. Martin Luther, “The Christian is supposed to **love his neighbor**, and since his wife is his **nearest neighbor**, she should be his **deepest love**.”
- R. 2-fold motive: **Honor her** because she’s a Christian & **care for her** because she is delicate.
- S. **[3] HEIRS!** (7c)
- T. *How to honor her continues...*
- U. **Fellow heirs of the grace of Christ** - Wives today, too, are also *spiritually equal* to their husbands.
- V. Though we have been given greater *authority* w/in marriage, our wives are still equal in **spiritual privilege & eternal importance!**
- W. **[4] PRAYERS!** (7d)
- X. **Prayers hindered** - Married life & fellowship are intended as a **help**, **not a hindrance** to spiritual progress. To fail in this area will result in an **ineffective prayer life**.
1. Thus, not living w/your wife in a way that pleases God is a very serious offense to Him.
- Y. The hindering of prayers is a form of God’s “fatherly discipline”.
1. He does not stop **loving us**, **but** He is apparently not interested in **communing w/us** about other things, when such serious sin is going on.
 2. In Mt.5 if a believer is worshiping God & remembers he wronged someone, Jesus says **go** immediately & deal with it, **then come back to worship**.
- Z. To take the time to **develop & maintain** a good marriage is **God’s will!**
- AA. **Husbands recap:** [1] Know your wife so as to live w/her in a compassionate & careful way [2] Esteem her as valuable & useful & show your gratitude [3] View your wife as an equal person in life.
1. **Observe her; Ask her questions; Experience her world.**
- BB. To paraphrase *Tevye* in *Fiddler on the Roof*, “*If you insist on an eye for an eye & a tooth for a tooth, you’ll both end up **blind & toothless**.*” (don’t look for your **rights**, look for your **role!**)
- CC. **Marriage** is a *partnership* in which God demands **submission** from the wife & **loving consideration** from the husband.
1. **Spiritual growth** is the *main theme*; **marriage** is simply the *context*.
 2. Paul Simon wrote the best selling song, “*Fifty Ways to Leave Your Lover*”. A Christian needs just 1 reason to stay with his/her lover...*the analogy of Christ & His Church*.

3. **Husbands**, you are married to a fallen woman in a broken world.
Wives, you are married to a sinful man in a sinful world.
It is guaranteed that your spouse will sin against you, disappoint you, & have physical limitations that will frustrate & sadden you.²
 - a) Your husband has been effected by the fall. Your wife has been effected by the fall.
 - b) If you can't *respect this spouse* because he/she is prone to certain weaknesses, you will never be able to respect any spouse!
 - c) **Jesus**, the only perfect human being to live on this earth, moved toward *sinful people*; he asks **us** to do the same, beginning w/the one closest to us...our spouse!

III. **LIVING IN HARMONY! (8-12)**

A. **SPIRITUAL MATURITY!**

- B. En route to *spiritual maturity* we all spill our milk, say things we shouldn't, & fail to act our age.³
 1. Sometimes we throw temper tantrums like toddlers, or pout like preschoolers, or argue & complain like teens.
 2. All the while we should be conducting ourselves as mature believers, setting an example to those younger in the faith.
 3. We may have **the knowledge**, but we don't have **the will** to do what's right.
 4. Too many Christians **grow old** w/o **growing up**!
 5. Here Peter gives us another **measuring rod** for **spiritual growth**! (checkpoints)
 - a) **9 points**: 1st 2, how we *think*; next 3, how we *feel*; last 4, what we *do & say*.
- C. (8) It seems this vs. shouldn't have to be in the bible for a church...but it does! :(
 1. I ask myself, *how do I redeem the image of the church* to people who have false conceptions about it?
 2. **Maybe this is the problem**...there always seems to be 2 conversations going on with us: 1 inside, 1 outside; 1 w/our lips, 1 w/our heart.
 - a) For instance, you can say the words to someone, "Jesus loves you!" **But**, do I really care about them? **Do I love them at lip level or heart level?**
 - b) **Maybe that's really what speak the truth in love** is saying...don't just lip the truth, **but mean it at both levels!**
- D. Peter says practice these *vital qualities* so you can live in Harmony w/each other.
 1. Note all 5 characteristics are marked by the *general spirit & attitude* of **submissiveness!**

² Gary Thomas, Sacred Marriage, pg.69.

³ Charles Swindoll, James, 1 & 2 Peter, pg.194.

- E. (10-11) Its our duty to *enjoy the Christian life*, not feel *weary* of it.
1. Not material prosperity **but** spiritual satisfaction.
- F. **He who would love life** - is written in a way that shows that such a life *is possible!*
1. But wait didn't Jesus say, **He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.**
 2. Yes, but the difference is **not** putting your **physical** life *above* your **spiritual** life.
- G. 3 ways to realize this true life:
1. **W/our speech** - 2-kinds of evil, cut out bad & unnecessary speech.
 2. **W/our action** - 2-fold attitude, positive & negative.
 3. **W/our purpose** - 2-fold purpose, seek or desire & go after peace.
- H. Peter found an excellent explanation of *how we live out this blessing* back in **Ps.34:12-16**, which he quotes in 10-12.
- I. **End:**
- J. Maybe in the end God will ask us (*from Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat*), **You Christian, you Christian, where have you *been*? - You Christian, you Christian, what did you *do there*?**
1. **What will we answer?**

Though many of us have seen pictures of **a huge eagle's nest** high in the branches of a tree or in the crag of a cliff, few of us have gotten a glimpse *inside*.

When a mother eagle builds her nest she starts with **thorns, broken branches, sharp rocks**, and a number of other items that seem entirely unsuitable for the project. But then she lines the nest with a thick padding of wool, feathers, and fur from animals she has killed, making it soft and comfortable for the eggs. By the time the growing birds reach flying age, the comfort of the nest and the luxury of free meals make them quite reluctant to leave.

That's when the mother eagle begins "**stirring up the nest**." With her strong talons she begins pulling up the thick carpet of fur and feathers, bringing the sharp rocks and branches to the surface. As more of the bedding gets plucked up, the nest becomes more **uncomfortable** for the young eagles. Eventually, this and other urgings prompt the growing eagles to leave their once-comfortable abode and **move on to more mature behavior**.