

FACTS ABOUT FATHERS

Test your memory of biblical history by completing this quiz about fathers:

1. What father in the Bible never had a grandfather? — Adam
2. What godly father walked with the Lord and never died? — ENOCH
3. What father had a floating zoo? — NOAH
4. What father was so faithful to God that he was willing to sacrifice his son upon an altar? — Abraham
5. What backslidden father and his family had to be dragged out of a sinful city by two angels? — Lot
6. What permissive father fell from his chair and died of a broken neck when he heard that his evil sons were slain and the ark of God had been captured? — Eli
7. What God-fearing father prayed for his 10 children, and yet they all were killed in one day? — Job
8. What father's hasty vow unintentionally resulted in a cruel punishment for his daughter? — Jephthah
9. What New Testament father-priest was struck dumb by God for refusing to believe the message of the angel Gabriel? — Zachariah
10. What fisherman father was left by his sons James and John, that they might follow Jesus? — Zebedee

ANSWERS:

1. Adam (Gen. 5:1-3); 2. Enoch (Gen. 5:21-24); 3. Noah (Gen. 7:1-6); 4. Abraham (Gen. 22:1, 2, 10); 5. Lot (Gen. 19:15, 16); 6. Eli (1 Sam. 2:27-35; 4:15-18); 7. Job (Job 1:1-5, 18-20); 8. Jephthah (Jud. 11:30, 31, 34-40); 9. Zachariah (Luke 1:5-22); 10. Zebedee (Mark 1:16-20).

SCORING: Ten points per question; 80 to 100—excellent; 60 or 70—very good; 40 or 50—average; 20 or 30—just fair; 0 or 10—to coin a phrase, "You couldn't be 'father' from the truth!" —H. G. B.



ILLUSTRATION

Father Learns Valuable Lesson at Son's Baseball Game

Send to printer

Topics: Affection; Childrearing; Children; Comfort; Family; Father; Fatherhood; Fathers; Father's Day; God, Fatherhood of; Instruction; Instruction of Children; Joy; Love; Perspective; Sports; Teenagers

Filters: Editor's Choice★; Men; Stories; Youth & Children

References: Proverbs 1:8 , Proverbs 4:1 , Proverbs 6:20 , Proverbs 13:1 , Proverbs 15:5 , Proverbs 22:6 , Ephesians 6:4 , Colossians 3:20-21

Tone: Neutral/Mixed

During one memorable at-bat the spring of my son's first baseball season, he repeatedly hit the tee instead of the ball. And it was obvious what the problem was. He wasn't keeping his eye on the ball; he was looking right at me instead. He was unable to get a base hit until finally I stepped out of sight.

We joked about that the rest of the season, but what the incident shows is the power of fatherly approval. My son wanted me to take pleasure in his accomplishment even before he accomplished it.

I observed the same desire at work the time he caught a pop fly. Before he threw the ball over to the first base to complete the double-play, he glanced over his shoulder to make sure I'd seen his catch.

In a way, I'm touched that my son wants me to take pleasure in his success. But I'm also awestruck by my responsibility as a father. A father's love means almost everything to a child. It establishes his or her identity. It brings peace, security, and joy.

If a father's affection matters so much, then it had better be the kind of affection that is just as strong after a strikeout as it is after a grand slam.

Philip Ryken, He Speaks to Me Everywhere (P & R, 2004), pp. 31-32; as quoted and paraphrased in the April 28 entry of Men of Integrity (March/April, 2009)

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May 9
Saturday

CHILDLIKE FAITH

READ:
Matthew 8:5-10

The things which are
impossible with men
are possible with God.
—Luke 18:27

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:

- 2 Kings 7-9
- John 1:1-28

On the way home from a family camping trip, 6-year-old Tanya and her dad were the only ones still awake in the car. As Tanya looked at the full moon through the car window, she asked, "Daddy, do you think I can touch the moon if I stand on my tip-toes?"

"No, I don't think so," he smiled.

"Can you reach it?"

"No, I don't think I can either."

She was quiet for a moment, then she said confidently, "Daddy, maybe if you hold me up on your shoulders?"

Faith? Yes—the childlike faith that daddies can do anything.

True faith, though, has the written promise of God for its foundation. In Hebrews 11:1, we read, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Jesus talked a lot about faith, and throughout the Gospels we read of His response to those who had great faith.

When a paralyzed man's friends brought him to Jesus, He "saw their faith," forgave the man of his sins, and healed him (Matt. 9:2-6). When the centurion asked Jesus to "speak a word, and my servant will be healed" (8:8), Jesus "marveled" and said, "I have not found such great faith" (8:10).

When we have faith in God, we will find that all things are possible (Luke 18:27). —Cindy Hess Kasper

*God, give me the faith of a little child
Who trusts so implicitly,
Who simply and gladly believes Thy Word,
And never would question Thee. —Showerman*

**A childlike faith unlocks the door
to the kingdom of heaven.**

Salvation — Submission — Suffering

PATTERN NUMBER FIVE FOLLOW THE COACH 2:18-25

KEY VERSE: 2:21

For to this you have been called because Christ also suffered for you leaving you a model to imitate in order that you might follow in His footprints.

MEMORY VERSE: 2:21

TEXT:

2:18-

Servants, be submissive gentle but also to those aware of God, he is when you are sinning and commendable in the sight of God. He suffered for you leaving footprints. He committed Himself to the cross in His body by His wound you have been turned back to the

EXPOSITION: Through me". Peter himself heard

"If we could avoid that portion of suffering we bring upon ourselves, we might be surprised at how little would be left."

to those who are kind and ed, if through a spiritual for what credit is it, if this you are enduring is ed because Christ also might follow in His mouth when He was being s not threatening. But was himself carried our sins ght live to righteousness g astray but now have

ing the phrase "follow Galilee. In Matt. 4:19,

- ① Don't Get Shook, God has the controls
- ② Get tough & start growing
- ③ You are part of the establishment
- ④ Submit to Authority
- ⑤ Follow the Coach

"Jesus said to them, Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

Luke 9:23 "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

It is only as a person has learned the lessons of the previous patterns that he is prepared to follow the coach ① Don't get shook, God has the controls ② Get tough and start growing.

③ You are part of the establishment ④ Submit to authority ⑤ And after having practiced these patterns, then in a very real, meaningful way, it is possible to follow the coach, Jesus Christ.

SUFFERING

Verse Eighteen: Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect not only to those who are kind and gentle but also to those who are harsh (unjust).

1. Peter's subject of submission will be continued on into chapter 3. In this verse we find that he is commanding servant's to be submissive to their masters. This submission is also taken a step further in this 18th verse in that it is not only to be a submission to those who are "kind and gentle," but also to those who are "harsh or unjust."

2. Lange, in his commentary on the Holy Scriptures, says, "In this verse the apostle establishes one of the most noble and important principles of morality, namely that our obligation to relative duties does not depend either on the character of the persons to whom they are to be performed or on their performance of the duties which they owe to us, but on the unalterable relations of things established by God."

3. It is well to note that on this 18th verse this submission is to be with "all respect" and not to be done grudgingly or with a feeling of necessity, because of your relationship to Jesus Christ. If the commands of verse 17 are being followed, it will be easy to fulfill the responsibilities of verse 18, that is, honoring all men, be loving the brotherhood, be fearing God, be honoring the King.

Verse Nineteen: For this is approved, if through a spiritual awareness of God, he is enduring pain while suffering unjustly.

1. In this verse we get the reason for the previous command, "this is approved".

2. Paul, in challenging Timothy, II Tim. 2:15 said, "Study to show yourself approved unto

PATTERN NUMBER SIX
WHEN ONE PLUS ONE EQUALS ONE 3:1-7

KEY VERSES: 3:1,7 In like manner, wives be putting yourselves in subjection to your own husbands, in order that even though certain ones are disbelieving the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives. Husbands, in like manner, be living with your wives according to knowledge, showing honor with the woman as the weaker vessel (sex) as to those who are also joint heirs of the grace of life in order that your prayers may not be hindered.

MEMORY VERSE: 3:4

TEXT: 3:1-7

In like manner, wives be putting y that even though certain ones are by the behavior of their wives, H fear. Let your adornment not be t of gold ornaments or putting on clo the imperishable quality of a gentl For thus formerly also the holy won putting themselves in subjection to calling him lord whose children yo terror. Husbands, in like manner, showing honor unto the woman as t heirs of the grace of life in order t

Every Marriage
has Three Rings
① Engagement Ring
② Wedding Ring
③ Suffer - Ring

nds, in order without a word with a reverential r and wearing the heart with God very costly. adorn themselves, y Abraham,earing any knowledge, also joint-

EXPOSITION: The sixth pattern

Ray Stedman points out in one of h ago I clipped out of the Saturday Evening Post a humorous article that traces the tendency which occurs in marriage to drift from a height of bliss to the hum-drum of routine attitudes, called "The Seven Ages of the Marriage Cold". It reveals the reaction of a husband to his wife's colds during seven years of marriage. This is the first year: 'Sugar Dumpling, I'm worried about my baby girl. You got a bad sniffle and there's no telling about these things with all this strep around. I'm putting you in the hospital this afternoon for a general check-up and a good rest. I know the food's lousy but I'll bring your meals in from Rossini's. I've already got it arranged with the floor superintendent.' Second year: 'Listen darling, I don't like the sound of that cough. I've called Doc Miller to rush over hear. Now you go to bed like a good girl, please, just for pappa.' Third year: 'Maybe you'd better lie down, honey, nothing like a little rest when you feel punk. I'll bring you something to eat. Have we got any soup?' Fourth year: 'Look dear, be sensible. After you feed the kids and get the dishes washed, you'd better hit the sack.' Fifth year: 'Why don't you get yourself a couple of aspirin?' Sixth year: 'If you would just gargle or something instead of sitting around barking like a seal.' Seventh year: 'For pete sakes, stop sneezing. What are you trying to do, give me pneumonia?'"

Dennison, in his book, Shock It To Me, Doctor says, "An employment agency manager questioned an applicant, 'There's a job open in Florida, but can you pick lemons?' Quickly the applicant responded, 'Boy, can I! I've been married five times.' One day in my consultation room a husband remarked, 'Isn't it odd how the biggest idiots always marry the prettiest women?' His wife answered, 'Now you're trying to flatter me.' A Short time ago a neighbor

Read: 1 Peter 3:1-7 June 30—Thursday

THE BONDS OF MATRIMONY

... let every one of you ... so love his wife even as himself;
and the wife ... reverence her husband. Ephesians 5:33

A SUCCESSFUL marriage requires falling in love many times—but always with the same person! Husbands are to be understanding and affectionate. Wives are to be helpful and responsive to every reasonable request of their husbands. Marriage is a two-way street of consideration and cooperation. The Bible emphasizes that it should be a blessed and lasting bond—not a trial balloon! A husband who forgets to show love because he's busy as a bee may one day find his honey gone. Wives must remember that marriage is more than finding the right person, it's primarily a matter of **being the right person.** Each partner should keep from putting selfish notes into the tune of marital harmony. They both must be willing to endure a little heat of disagreement unless they want a half-baked relationship.

In a book entitled *Homemaking*, J. R. Miller gives some excellent advice to husbands and wives. He says, "There are no hearts that hunger so for expression of affection as the ones of which we are most sure. There is no love that so needs its daily bread as the love that is strongest and holiest. There is no place where rudeness or a crabby attitude is so unpardonable as inside our own doors and toward our beloved husband or wife. The more tender and true the relationship, the more it craves the thousands of little attentions and kindnesses which so reassure and satisfy the heart."

Husbands and wives, remember, love can stand anything but neglect. Indeed, the bonds of matrimony aren't worth much unless the interest is kept up! —H. G. B.

If you've promised to love one another,
Let nothing that vow ever break;
For if God has thus joined you together,
Remember, His honor's at stake.

—G. W.

THOT: Many marriages would be happier if the husband tried as hard to KEEP his wife as he did to WIN her.

Read: 1 Peter 3:1-7

June 30—Thursday

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February 26
Thursday

A SAD SPLIT

READ:
Malachi 2:10-16

Let none deal
treacherously with
the wife of his youth.
—Malachi 2:15

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:
■ Numbers 15-16
■ Mark 6:1-29

The drama played out in a nest of bald eagles monitored by a webcam. A beloved eagle family, viewed by many via the Internet, was breaking up. After raising several offspring in previous seasons, the parents again laid new eggs in the spring. But then a young female invaded their happy home. When Dad started cavorting with her, Mom disappeared and the life in the abandoned eggs died.

In an Internet chat room, questions and accusations flew wildly. Everyone who loved the pair was distraught. Biologists warned the amateur eagle enthusiasts not to attribute human values to birds. But everyone did. We all wanted the original couple to reunite. Everyone seemed to “know” that the

family unit is sacred.

As chat room members expressed their sadness, I wondered if they knew that God feels much the same way about human family breakups. I also wondered about myself: Why did I feel more sadness over the eagles than over the fractured human families in my community? Clearly, I need to revise my priorities.

In Malachi 2, we see God’s view of marriage. It symbolizes His covenant with His people (v.11). He takes it very seriously—and so should we. —Julie Ackerman Link

THINKING IT OVER

*In Malachi 2:11, what is “profaned” and how?
How does Malachi 2:15 echo Genesis 2:24?
Why is this important? (Mal. 2:15-16).*

Put Christ first if you want your marriage to last.

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Marriage	744-08	<p>I can't count the number of times a husband or wife has called me, his or her spouse having one foot in a divorce attorney's office or someone else's bed—and the other on a banana peel! If these callers are willing to admit, with humility, to their destructive behaviors without equivocation or blaming, I remind them that they hold all the cards.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. There is a shared history that is touching and difficult to let go of.2. There are children, pets, and projects in common that would be sad to only visit.3. There are the memories of the good times.4. There is the difficulty in making huge changes.5. There are webs of family and friends to be considered.6. There is the unknown. <p>That's but a brief list of what is on your side! All you have to do is become the kind of person and spouse your partner couldn't bear to be without. Threats, martyred behavior, attacks of the vapors, laying guilt . . . none of these have the power of humility and love.</p> <p>pp. 128-29</p>

Songs of The 40's

Be My Lifes Companion

Louis Armstrong

Be my life's companion, and you'll never grow old

I'll love you so much that you'll never grow old

When there's joy in livin' you just never grow old

You've got to stay young 'cause you'll never grow old

People who are lonely can be old at thirty-three

Don't let it happen to you, it didn't happen to me

Be my life's companion and you'll never grow old

You'll never grow old, no, you'll never grow old

Love and youth and happiness are yours to have and hold

Be my life's companion, and you'll never grow old

I know a man who's lonely, and he's old at thirty-three

No one wants to be – old at thirty-three

Your disposition sours like a lemon on a tree

Don't let it happen to you, and I won't let it happen to me

Be my life's companion and you'll never grow old

I'll love you so much that you'll never grow old

Love and youth and happiness are yours to have and hold

Be my life's companion and you'll never grow old

Be my life's companion and you'll never grow old

Lucille, I'll love you so much that you'll never grow old

Love and youth and happiness are yours to have and hold

Be my life's companion and you'll never grow old

Little Things Mean A Lot

Kitty Kallen

Blow me a kiss from across the room
Say I look nice when I'm not
Touch my hair as you pass my chair
Little things mean a lot

Give me your arm as we cross the street
Call me at six on the dot
A line a day when you're far away
Little things mean a lot

Don't have to buy me diamonds or pearls
Champagne, sables, and such
I never cared much for diamonds and pearls
'cause honestly, honey, they just cost money

Give me a hand when I've lost the way
Give me your shoulder to cry on
Whether the day is bright or gray
Give me your heart to rely on

Send me the warmth of a secret smile
To show me you haven't forgot
For now and forever, that's always and ever
Honey, little things mean a lot

<http://www.lyricsdownload.com/kallen-kitty-little-things-mean-a-lot-lyrics.html>

Ivory Tower
Cathy Carr

Come down, come down from your ivory tower
Let love come into your heart
Don't lock yourself in an ivory tower
Don't keep us so far apart

I love you, I love you
Are you too far above me to hear

Come down, come down from your ivory tower
You'll find true love has its charms
It's cold, so cold, in your ivory tower
And warm, so warm in my arms

I love you, I love you
Are you too far above me to hear

Come down, come down from your ivory tower
You'll find true love has its charms
It's cold, so cold, in your ivory tower
And warm, so warm in my arms

<http://www.lyricstime.com/cathy-carr-ivory-tower-lyrics.html>

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
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Marriage

693-07

In her book *It's My Turn*, Ruth Bell Graham gets pretty blunt in this regard:

I pity the married couple who expect too much from one another. It is a foolish woman who expects her husband to be to her what only Jesus Christ can be: always ready to forgive, totally understanding, unendingly patient, invariably tender and loving, unfailing in every area, anticipating every need, and making more than adequate provision. Such expectations put a man under an impossible strain.¹¹

11. Ruth Bell Graham, *It's My Turn* (Old Tappan, N.J.: Revell, 1982), 74.

p. 70

Marriage

693-08

Let me be brutally honest here: a husband married to a disappointed wife loses most of his motivation to improve his bad habits. Why do you think your husband worked so hard before you got married? Because he loved the way you adored him. He wanted to catch your attention, to impress you. And when he saw that you *did* notice and *did* appreciate him, it made him want to please you even more. *He felt motivated to move by the way you adored him.*

The relational cancer of blatant disappointment will eat away any motivation for further change. Before you try to move your man, sit back, enjoy him, appreciate him, and thank God for him. Before you begin to think about what he needs to change, make an exhaustive inventory about what you want to stay the same. Then thank God for that – and thank your husband too.
p. 72

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Marriage	694-17	<p>A man might be able to preach a sterling sermon, write inspiring books, and quote the Bible front to back. But if he hasn't learned how to be a servant to his wife, to respect her, and to be considerate of her, then his spirituality is still infantile. His prayer life—the lifeblood of his soul—will be a sham.</p> <p>p. 76</p>
Marriage	694-18	<p>Marriage is the greatest test in the world . . . but now I welcome the test instead of dreading it. It is much more than a test of sweetness of temper, as people sometimes think; it is a test of the whole character and affects every action.</p> <p>—T. S. Eliot</p> <p>Marriage is the operation by which a woman's vanity and a man's egotism are extracted without anesthetic.</p> <p>—Helen Rowland</p> <p>One of the best wedding gifts God gave you was a full-length mirror called your spouse. Had there been a card attached, it would have said, "Here's to helping you discover what you're <i>really</i> like!"</p> <p>—Gary and Betsy Ricucci</p> <p>p. 89</p>
Marriage	694-19	<p>The important thing is to view the challenges of our particular life situation as a platform for growth. An athlete who truly wants to improve his performance doesn't look for the easiest workout; he looks for the one that will challenge him the most. Marriage certainly has its challenges, but when these are faced head-on, our marriage can nurture our devotional lives in enriching ways. One of the ways is by unmasking our sin and our hurtful attitudes and thus leading us into the spirit of humility.</p> <p>p. 92</p>

of mine asked me, of all people, to check over his income tax return. Married only a few months, he was proudly proclaiming the fact that he was entitled to claim a \$600 deduction for his wife. I scanned his return and everything seemed to be in order until I came to the section reserved for listing dependents. There he had written in large bold letters 'Keep Watching This Space.'"

Paul Tournier, in his book To Understand Each Other, gives the progression that leads to difficulty in marriage. "They speak of three different phases. The first is the honeymoon phase. The couple feel that they understand each other both easily and amazingly well. You can hear the fiancée saying, 'My fiancé has the same taste in everything, we're the very same. We agree in all matters and we are able to talk everything over between us. Even before I begin to say something he has already thought the same. He senses all my wishes and all my feelings he understands.' During the early years of marriage, we are still in the honeymoon stage, still have the sense of spontaneous, mutual understanding and complete sameness. By instinct, we choose partners complementary to ourselves. What each one has repressed in himself during the period of adolescent differentiation, he rediscovers in his partner. Hence, the wonderful feeling of completeness in each other. Then comes the second phase in marriage usually found between the fifth and tenth years of marriage according to the same specialists. In this stage each one realizes that the other is not so similar to himself as he had thought. He discovers faults he had heretofore unnoticed. Whereas faults which he was sure would disappear quickly under the happy effects of marriage --now these faults are often of the most insupportable and tenacious kind. They include temper, selfishness, lying, greed, violence, vulgarity, drunkenness. What a let down! We begin gently by warning the other, then by scolding, by imploring, and finally by threatening. Yet, none of these takes effect. Then comes the well-known expression, 'I can't understand him.' Then comes the temptation to withdraw into oneself in order to lessen the risk of conflict, the temptation to abdicate. This is the beginning of the third phase. It will develop according to the direction which the previous phase has taken. It may be the progressive giving up and the struggle for happiness, resentment, bitterness, rebellion, 'My husband is not the man I believed he was,' 'My wife is not at all what I thought her to be,' 'I made a terrible mistake.' At this point they begin to think of divorce. Let us react then against the stupid idea of chance which leads men to imagine that we may hit upon a pearl for a wife as one might a prize in a lottery. Besides, it could be very difficult to be married to a pearl if you did not feel yourself in the same category. What really counts then is the working out together of marital happiness. It is a goal to strive after, not a privilege gained at the outset, and to work it out, the ability to understand each other is essential. So called 'emotional incompatibility' is a myth invented by jurists short of arguments in order to plead for divorce."

Verse one: In like manner, wives be putting yourselves in subjection to your own husbands, in order that even though certain ones are disbelieving the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives.

1. Peter, in the opening statement of this third chapter, uses the phrase "in like manner" referring back to 2:18, "Servants be submissive to your masters." Now, in like manner wives be putting yourselves into subjection to your own husbands. Whereas there is God's chain of command with regard to government and our submission to the authorities over us in this area, there is also God's chain of command in regards to employer-employee relationship. So the same chain of command comes down to the home and the Scriptures teach the headship of the husband in this relationship.

Genesis 3:16 "Then God said to the woman, you shall bear children in intense pain & suffering; yet even so you shall welcome your husband's affections, and he shall be your master."

Two Porcupines in Alaska!

when don't I have to submit? O Goodie! where else can I 64.

More interested in Arranging Compromises than Obedying Commands. Submit I just love to give in & be submissive.

2. Eerdman point out, "This command of submission does not at all imply that the wife is in any way inferior to the husband, neither does it mean that the wife must carry her submission to the extreme of disobeying God at the command of her husband. The Word of God must always take precedence over that of any human being."
3. Michael John Deppe helps us to an understand of the biblical submission when he says,
① "The word submission has the idea of obedience. Luke 2:51 records that the Lord was subject to Mary and Joseph. The submission of the child involves obedience to what the parents say. Romans 13:1 says that believers are to be subject to the higher powers. This would involve obedience to the laws and regulations of the government. Thus, a
① submissive wife would be the obedient wife. The word submission also has the idea of chain of command, or sphere of authority. I Cor. 15:27,28 says 'All things are subject to Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ is subject to God the Father.' This is the divine line of authority--God, Christ, things. The proper chain of command for the home is husband, wife. This fits in with Eph. 4:23 which says that the husband is the head of the wife. I Cor. 11:8 explains that man has authority over woman because he was created first. I Tim. 2:12-15 adds that man has authority over woman because woman sinned first. The word submission also involves the idea of control. I Cor. 14:32 says that the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. In other words, a prophet controls his prophetic gift. Control may well be the idea in James 4:7 when James says, 'Submit yourselves to God.' James exhorts the believers to allow God to control their lives. ③ Thus, the submissive wife should allow her husband to control her life. She would allow him to make the decisions."
4. The purpose for this admonition to the wives to be putting themselves into subjection to their own husbands is seen in the next phrase, "in order that even though certain ones are disbelieving the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives." *Wife's greatest witness is by her submission*
5. Peter is picturing here a couple who were both pagans when they were married, but now since the marriage, evidently the wife has come to know Jesus Christ and the husband is still disbelieving the word which Peter has spoken of in 1:23 "as the living and abiding word, the imperishable seed by which we are born again."
6. How is this witness of the wife to take place? Peter says they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives.
7. Peter is telling us here that it is possible for a husband to be won without a word from the word, simply by observing the beautiful behavior of their wives. *our witness* *Life-lip* *Shining - Sharing* *Fragrance*
8. Reese points out a passage from Augustine's confessions as touchingly to the point, of his mother, Monica. He says, "When she came to marriageable age, she was bestowed upon a husband and served him as her lord and she did all she could to win him to thee, speaking to him of thee by her deportment, whereby thou madest her beautiful and reverently loveable and admirable to her husband. Finally, when her husband was now at the very end of his earthly life, she won him unto thee."
9. The word for "disbelieving" in the text is fairly strong and would convey the idea that there is the possibility of open opposition here in the entrenchment of the husband in rebellion against the truth.
10. Barclay has a beautiful comment on the wife's responsibility here. "He tells her something very simple. He tells her nothing else than to be a good wife, by the silent preaching of the loveliness of her life she must break down the barriers of prejudice, hostility and win her husband for her new master. She must be submissive. It is not a cringing and spineless

Exodus 1:15-17 "Then Pharaoh the King of Egypt instructed the Hebrew midwives to kill all Hebrew boys as soon as they were born, but to let the girls live. But the mid-wives feared God & didn't obey the king - they let the boys live too. V. 20 And God blessed the mid-wives."

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Marriage	693-01	<p>You may not have realized this, but husbands <i>like</i> to brag about their wives. They may not say it to you, but they notice your strengths and take pride in them. But far more important than your business savvy or social skills is your spiritual core. This is what will give you the strength and respect that are so necessary for being a godly change agent in your marriage. And it will bless your husband immensely. According to 1 Timothy 3:11, a man's qualification for spiritual office includes being married to a woman "worthy of respect."</p> <p>The first step toward influencing your man is becoming such a woman – the unique person God created you to be, in all your glory.</p> <p>p. 22</p>
Marriage	693-02	<p>Since most women marry men as old as or older than they are, the math isn't all that hard to figure out. <i>If you die while still married to your spouse, you'll be in the minority.</i> Sooner or later, you're probably going to have to live without your husband.</p> <p>This means the day will likely come when you will need strength, courage, and character like you've never had before. You'll have to stand on your own. So then, why not develop that strength, courage, and character <i>now</i>, while your husband is still living and you're not beside yourself with grief? Why not bless this world with the example of a woman defined by God, living a life that reveres God, twenty or thirty years sooner than widowhood forces it on you?</p> <p>p. 28</p>
Marriage	693-03	<p>Dr. Melody Rhode often uses a psychoneurological term to describe a man's reluctance to change: <i>functional fixedness</i>. Men don't normally change if what they've been doing seems to be working for them. When a woman allows her husband to treat her with disrespect, he has no motivation to change – and so it's unlikely he ever will.</p> <p>p. 29</p>

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Marriage	693-04	<p>Affirmation is more than a man's desire – much more. Acceptance and encouragement are biblical requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God” (Romans 15:7).• “Encourage one another and build each other up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11).• “Encourage one another daily” (Hebrews 3:13). <p>Even if your husband never changes; even if every bad habit, every neglected responsibility, every annoying character trait, stays exactly the same – then, for your own spiritual health, you need to learn how to love this man <i>as he is</i>. p. 56</p>
Marriage	693-05	<p>I have found Philippians 4:8 as relevant for marriage as it is for life: “Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.”</p> <p>Obsessing over your husband's weaknesses won't make them go away. You may have done that for years – and if so, what has it gotten you, besides more of the same? Leslie Vernick warns, “Regularly thinking negatively about your husband <i>increases</i> your dissatisfaction with him and your marriage.” Affirming your husband's strengths, however, will likely reinforce and build up those areas you cherish and motivate him to pursue excellence of character in others. p. 61</p>
Marriage	693-06	<p>Can you maintain a soft heart over past hurts, patiently praying for long-term change? Or will you freeze him in his incapacities with judgment, resentment, condemnation, and criticism? Can you maintain a <i>nurturing</i> attitude instead of a judgmental one? p. 62</p>

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Marriage	694-05	<p>There's an old rabbinical story about how the spot was chosen for God's holy temple. Two brothers worked a common field and a common mill. Each night they divided whatever grain they had produced and each took his portion home.</p> <p>One brother was single and one was married with a large family. The single brother decided that his married brother, with all those kids, certainly needed more grain than he did, so at night he secretly crept over to his brother's granary and gave him an extra portion. The married brother realized that his single brother didn't have any children to care for him in his old age. Concerned about his brother's future, he got up each night and secretly deposited some grain in his single brother's granary.</p> <p>One night they met halfway between the two granaries, and each brother realized what the other was doing. They embraced, and as the story goes, God witnessed what happened and said, "This is a holy place—a place of love—and it is here that my temple shall be built." The holy place is that spot where God is made known to his people, "the place where human beings discover each other in love."¹</p> <p>1. Belden C. Lane, "Rabbinical Stories," <i>Christian Century</i> (12/16/81), quoted in Thomas N. Hart and Kathleen Fischer Hart, <i>The First Two Years of Marriage</i> (New York: Paulest, 1983), 117–18. pp. 30–31</p>
Marriage	694-06	<p>Knowing <i>why</i> we are married and should stay married is crucial. This will lead us into a discussion brilliantly argued by Maryland pastor C. J. Mahaney in an audiotope series on marriage titled <i>According to Plan</i>. The key question is this: Will we approach marriage from a God-centered view or a man-centered view?³ In a man-centered view, we will maintain our marriage as long as our earthly comforts, desires, and expectations are met. In a God-centered view, we preserve our marriage because it brings glory to God and points a sinful world to a reconciling Creator.</p> <p>3. C. J. Mahaney, "God's Purpose and Pattern for Marriage," <i>According to Plan</i> audiotope series (Gaithersburg, Md.: PDI Communications, 1994). p. 32</p>

submission that is meant. It is the submission that which someone has finally put it 'it is a voluntary selflessness'. It is the submission which is based on the death of pride, the abusing of self, and the instinctive desire to serve. It is not the submission of fear. She must be pure, there must be in her life a lovely chastity, and a fidelity which is founded on love. She must be reverent, she must live in the condition that the whole world is the temple of God, and all life is lived in the presence of Christ. The wife who became a Christian would have neither her troubles nor her sorrows to seek, her only weapon must be the silent preaching of a lovely life."

- 11. The extent of submission on the part of the wife has been illustrated by the model that we've looked at back in chapter 2 in the person of Jesus Christ.
- 12. Stedman, in commenting on the statement, "without a word" on the part of the wife says, "Without a word does not mean she is never to speak to him. It simply means she is not to nag him. It is clearly nagging that is in view here. I heard of a man who called his wife Peg although she really had another name. Someone asked him why he did this and he said, 'Well, Peg is short for Pegases, and Pegases was an immortal horse, and an immortal horse is an everlasting nag. That's why I call my wife Peg.'"

2: 21-25

Verse Two: Having observed your pure manner of life with a reverential fear.

- 1. Peter is telling us here that the disbelieving husband is won without a word by observing the pure manner of life with a reverential fear.
- 2. Peter has already spoken of our manner of life in (chapter 2, verse 12) where he says, "Having your manner of life among the gentiles beautiful in its goodness in order that in case they are speaking against you as those who are doing evil as a result of your good deeds which they are watching, they may glorify God on the day of visitation."
- 3. Whereas in chapter 2 Peter is talking about our witness to the unsaved in general, now in chapter 3 he is making it more specific of a Christian wife to an unsaved husband.

Verse three: Let your adornment not be the outward adorning with braiding the hair and wearing of gold ornaments or putting on clothing.

- 1. Here Peter is not speaking against the matter of outward adorning, but the comparative value of the two. The most important is the hidden person of the heart which we will see in verse 4.
- 2. This verse is just pointing up the negative side of the admonition, and in verse 4 we will get the positive.
- 3. There are three things which the woman can spend a lot of time and money on which is really not top priority if a choice had to be made. These three things are the braiding of the hair, the wearing of gold ornaments, and putting on of clothing. **hair, jewelry, clothes.**
- 4. Peter is not saying it is wrong to braid the hair, or to wear jewelry or to put on nice clothing, but that those are only material things and the most important matter is seen in verse 4. **wrong to wear clothes.**

Legalists

Verse Four: But let it be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God very costly.

- 1. "But" forms the contrast, and now we get the positive statement. Whereas it is not to be the outward adorning, it is to be the hidden person of the heart which is to be adorned because this is true beauty.
- 2. This adornment of the heart is to be with the imperishable qualities of a gentle and quiet spirit.
- 3. Peter mentions "the gentle and quiet spirit" which likewise are characteristics of the Lord Jesus himself, described in the latter part of chapter 2. Verse 23, "When he was being reviled, he was not reviling in return, and who while suffering was not threatening, but

Jer 4:30

Going down to get the runners!
The kind of help you wanted to give
wasn't what she needed!

Decisions - back off! No decision
is worth a marriage relationship.

FOREVER MY LOVE - Margaret Hardisty

MARRIAGE

Happily enough, there are still men about who consider women special and treat them that way. They don't hide behind the old man's tale that "Women ain't ladies no more, so I ain't bein' no gennulman." I suspect any man who feels that way was never a gentleman in the first place.

Being a real man will have a tremendous effect on your children, too. God help us if all our children see in us is a lust-laden, weak generation that is so desperate for acceptance it has to smoke, drink, commit adultery and curse in order to gain it. Then what was once a bid for acceptance eventually becomes a motivation for living. The kids are sickened by it, and turned off, even though they follow right along in the "venerated" footsteps.

Pg. 40-41

James "quick to hear, slow to speak + slow to anger." 66.

was committing himself to the one who is judging righteously."

4. Peter tells us further that this imperishable quality of a "gentle and quiet spirit" is in the sight of God very costly.

5. Back in chapter 2, verse 20, we read, "If when you are doing good and suffering for it and this you are enduring this is commendable in the sight of God." Peter is telling us that the wife's responsibility in marriage is to cultivate the hidden person of the heart, manifesting a gentle and quiet spirit rather than being overly concerned about the outward adornment because it is this inner quality of life produced by the Spirit of God that is going to make it possible for an unbelieving husband to be won to the Savior.

Verse Five: For thus formerly also the holy women, the ones who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, putting themselves in subjection to their own husbands.

1. In this fifth verse, Peter gives a reason for the previous admonition by using an illustration from the women of the Old Testament. There are three things said about these women in this fifth verse: First of all, they were holy women who hoped in God. Secondly, they adorned themselves with the inner adorning of the hidden person with a gentle and quiet spirit. Thirdly, they were putting themselves into subjection to their own husbands.

Verse Six: As Sarah used to obey Abraham, calling him lord whose children you became if you are doing good and not fearing any terror.

1. Now Peter makes the illustration more specific by citing Sarah as one who used to obey Abraham, in other words put herself into subjection of his leadership, calling him lord. Then, he applies it to the New Testament, "whose children you became if" in a positive way "you are doing good" and in a negative way "you are not fearing any terror".
2. What Peter is saying is that these two manifestations of doing good and not fearing terror are just manifestations of the fact that you've been born again by the living word of God. If this is the case, your life will bear fruit to this end and you will not be fearing any terror because God's judgment for your sin has already been poured on the person of Jesus Christ.

Verse Seven: Husbands, in like manner, be living with your wives according to knowledge showing honor unto the woman as the weaker vessel (sex) as to those who are also joint-heirs of the grace of life in order that your prayers may not be hindered.

1. Peter now turns to the husband's responsibility in marriage in this seventh verse. And there are two things he wants to say to the husbands: First, be living with your wives according to knowledge and secondly, showing honor unto the woman as the weaker vessel as to those who are also joint-heirs of the grace of life. The purpose behind these admonitions is seen in the last phrase of the verse, "in order that your prayers may not be hindered."
2. First of all, Peter in his admonition to husbands says "Be living with your wives according to knowledge". That is quite a command, to say the least, who has ever been able to understand a woman? Seriously, Peter is admonishing the husbands to be living with their wives according to the knowledge that the woman's needs are different from his own. Time must be taken to be considerate, to communicate, to be concerned and to be careful to be sensitive to the needs of his wife. This then would be fulfilling the admonition to be living with your wives according to knowledge.
3. The second thing that Peter says here is "showing honor unto the woman as the weaker vessel or sex as to those who are also joint heirs of the grace of life".
4. Both the husband and the wife are the vessels in the household of God. One is stronger than the other, but both belong to Him.

"A Woman feels loved when she is understood..."

Another part of Peter's development - He learned to live with & care for a woman

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Marriage	694-13	<p>The difficulty with honoring our spouse is that it calls us to adopt attitudes and actions that go far beyond merely saying that we won't dishonor him or her. As Betsy and Gary Ricucci point out, "Honor isn't passive, it's active. We honor our wives by demonstrating our esteem and respect: complimenting them in public; affirming their gifts, abilities, and accomplishments; and declaring our appreciation for all they do. Honor not expressed is not honor."³</p> <p>3. Ricucci, <i>Love That Lasts</i>, 70. p. 63</p>
Marriage	694-14	<p>The Maryland pastor I cited earlier, C.J. Mahaney, has learned to honor his wife almost instinctually. His sister tells of a time when C.J. and his wife were holding their first baby. Many parents are familiar with the "idolatry of the firstborn," but C.J. demonstrated his maturity when someone came up to him and said, "I bet she's the apple of your eye." C.J. immediately pointed to his wife and said, "No—<i>she</i> is the apple of my eye."⁴</p> <p>4. Quoted in Ricucci, <i>Love That Lasts</i>, 121. p. 63</p>
Marriage	694-15	<p>I realized that I was being deluded by my sense of self-righteousness. Instead of focusing on what Lisa could improve, I should have been on my knees, begging God to change <i>me</i>. This thought was magnified one morning when I awoke and started praying through Scripture. All of a sudden, a question startled me: "Does Lisa feel like she's married to Jesus?"</p> <p>I almost laughed out loud, until I was shaken by another thought. I am told over and over in Scripture that my duty as a Christian is to become more and more like Jesus Christ. Over time, my wife <i>should</i> start to feel like there's at least a family resemblance. I realized how pitifully short I had fallen in my task of improving myself for my wife's sake.</p> <p>p. 64</p>
Marriage	694-16	<p>A magnificent marriage begins not with knowing one another but with knowing God.</p> <p>—Gary and Betsy Ricucci p. 73</p>

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Marriage	694-28	<p>Merely being faithful to your spouse is quite a testimony in this society. But as you go beyond that to communicate love for your spouse in a consistent, creative, and uninhibited way, the world can't help but notice. God will be honored.</p> <p>—Gary and Betsy Ricucci</p> <p>When a girl marries, she exchanges the attentions of all the other men of her acquaintance for the inattention of just one.</p> <p>—Helen Rowland</p> <p>p. 153</p>
Marriage	694-29	<p>One of the great spiritual challenges for any Christian is to become less self-absorbed. We are born intensely self-focused. The discipline of Christian marriage calls us into the Christian reality of sharing and enjoying fellowship in a uniquely intimate way. Maintaining an interest in and empathy for someone else is by no means an easy discipline to maintain—but it is a vital one. It is a skill that must be learned.</p> <p>Many years ago, I and a few close friends celebrated our high school graduation by hiking on Mount Rainier. Before I attempted to jump a fast-moving creek, one of my friends advised me, "Just make sure you fall forward." The advice was well heeded. Even if I didn't make the jump, as long as I kept my momentum going forward, I wouldn't be swept into the stream.</p> <p>The advice has stayed with me down through the years, as I believe that Christian marriage is also about learning to fall forward.</p> <p>p. 154–55</p>
Marriage	694-30	<p>Many Christians don't see sex as a gift for which to be thankful, but as a guilt-ridden burden to be borne. And naturally, anything so intimately connected with guilt is difficult to view as a ladder to the holy.</p> <p>p. 200</p>
Marriage	694-31	<p>It might sound shocking, but it's true: God doesn't turn his eyes when a married couple goes to bed. It only stands to reason that we shouldn't turn our eyes from God when we share intimate moments with our spouse.</p> <p>p. 201</p>

5. Paul tells Timothy in II Tim. 2:20,21, "In a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and earthenware and some for noble use, some for ignoble. If anyone purifies himself from what is ignoble, then he will be a vessel for noble use, consecrated and useful for the master of the house, ready for any good work."
6. Peter goes on to say, "As to those who are also joint-heirs of the grace of life." Paul in Romans 8:17 says, "And if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ provided he suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him." Here in this passage, Peter makes it clear that the husbands and wives who know him are joint-heirs of the grace of life. Whereas in this life the woman is the weaker vessel, the future for both of them in eternity is they are joint-heirs of the grace of life.
7. Smith points out, "They will be reunited hereafter, the closest bands we form on earth are severed by the hand of death, and the day will come when your wife will be taken from you or you from her, and one of you will sit by the corpse of the other and think perhaps of the history of your married life. Even then religion will be your solace and your stay. How different the emotions of the believer when called to part with one he truly loves from those of a sceptic or an infidel. He knows that the separation will be brief and that fellow heirs of life, he and his loved one will meet again in the realms of immortality and bliss. In heaven they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are as the angels of God, yet from the apostles language here we should certainly infer the recognition of our friends in heaven, and even a reunion with them in bonds not to be severed again. Honor then your wife, she will one day like yourself, be as an angel of God. You will tread together the bowers of paradise, you will drink together the water of life, you will chant together the song of victory, you will dwell together in the unclouded presence of your Lord."
8. Stedman, in commenting on this phrase "you are joint-heirs of the grace of life" said: "This means that a husband must recognize his wife's right to share every part of his thinking, of his whole life. All the barriers must come down between them, all the channels of communication must be open. There are no off-limit areas that he keeps separate from his wife. This does not mean that they must always participate in everything mutually, but it does mean that there must be mutual understanding in this area. There is to be no threat of rivalry to his love for her from some outside activity or occupation. This relates again to that central need for woman to have first place in her husband's affections. He must share so fully his needs, his desires and his reactions with her that she understands the whole situation and feels no threat arising from it. He must understand that women are made to be helpmeets, partners. What good is a partner if she is excluded from some particular area? Her urge to share his life fully accounts for woman's notorious curiosity. She cannot tolerate exclusion from any area of her husband's life. Her attempts to satisfy this basic drive accounts for what some husbands call 'nosey' wives, but there is nothing wrong with her. It is his fault, not hers. He is to open these doors of channel and communication to her."
9. The purpose now given by Peter for these previous admonitions is "in order that your prayers may not be hindered."
10. Barclay, in speaking on this purpose, says: "Finally, unless a man realizes and fulfills these obligations, there is a barrier between his prayers and God. As Bigg puts it, 'The sighs of the injured wife come between the husbands prayers and God's hearing.'

Use
This!

Book seller: Tripped trying to Run up
the down escalator.!

Conclusion:

Books on Marriage

Jill + Pat Williams: - Re-Kindled

Swindoll: Strike the original match

Norman Wright's books.

Make Full My Joy - Larry Crabb Tie on dog

Tapes - (same)

The way of a man w/ a maiden - Proverbs

Going for the Gold Mike + Myrna -

Funerals - Married 60 years.

Here is a great truth. Our relationships with God can never be right when our relationships with our fellow men are wrong. It is when we are one with each other that we are also one with God."

11. The Scripture is filled with illustrations of the cries of injustice reaching the ears of God the Father. Cain heard from the Lord, "The blood of your brother cries out from the ground". Exodus records that the cries of the children of Israel were heard from the Lord.
12. In the New Testament, James in 5:4 says, "But look here is the pay of the reaper you hired of whom you cheated, and it is shouting out against you and the cries of the other laborers you swindled are heard by the Lord of hosts himself."
13. Peter thus tells us that the husbands are to be fulfilling their responsibilities in order that their prayers will not be hindered.

CONCLUSION: Peter in Pattern Number Six, "When One Plus One Equals One" has shared with us the responsibility of the wives and the responsibility of the husbands. As these responsibilities are fulfilled on the part of each of the partners involved in the marriage then we get the mathematical equation, $1 + 1 = 1$.

Paul, in writing to the Ephesians in chapter 5 speaks of the husband and wife relationship.

"You wives must learn to adapt yourselves to your husbands, as you submit yourselves to the Lord, for the husband is the head of the wife in the same way that Christ is the head of the church, the Savior of the body. The willing subjection of the church to Christ should be reproduced in submission of wives to their husbands. But remember this means that the husband must give his wife the same sort of love that Christ gave to the church when He sacrificed himself for her. Fear not to give their wives the love they naturally have for their own bodies, the love a man gives his wife is the extending of his love for himself, to enfold her. In practice, what I have said amounts to this, let everyone of you who is a husband, love his wife as he loves himself and let the wife reverence her husband."

Lessons:

- ① Marriage is An unconditional Covenant. ONLY death can break it.
- ② The Gentle + Quiet spirit in the eyes of God is priceless
- ③ Inner beauty takes priority over outward beauty.
- ④ Oneness is the goal in the marriage relationship.
- ⑤ The husband is to know his wife + meet her needs
- ⑥ Your Fellowship w/θ. is broken when you are out of Fellowship w/ your wife.

- ① Don't Get Shook
- ② Get Tough + Start
- ③ You are Part of The Deal
- ④ Submit to Author
- ⑤ Follow the Coach
- ⑥ One + one = one
- ⑦ Life can be beautiful

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
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Apology

686-02

STATEMENTS OF REGRET

- ♥ *I know now that I hurt you very deeply. That causes me immense pain. I am truly sorry for what I did.*
 - ♥ *I feel really bad that I disappointed you. I should have been more thoughtful. I'm sorry that I caused you so much pain.*
 - ♥ *At the time, obviously I was not thinking very well. I never intended to hurt you, but now I can see that my words were way out of line. I'm sorry that I was so insensitive.*
 - ♥ *I am sorry that I violated your trust. I've created a roadblock in our relationship that I want to remove. I understand that even after I apologize, it may take awhile for you to venture down the road of trust with me again.*
 - ♥ *You were promised a service that we have not provided. I am sorry that our company clearly dropped the ball this time.*
- p. 35

Apology

686-03

The only problem is, Rich is never willing to apologize. When he gets upset because things don't go his way, he lashes out at me in anger. Instead of apologizing, he blames me for his anger. Even the few times he has said 'I'm sorry,' he adds 'But if you had not provoked me, I would not have gotten angry.' He excuses his behavior by shifting the blame to me. It's like he can do no wrong. He always has to put the blame on me. I know that I am not a perfect wife, but I'm willing to admit when I do wrong. Rich never admits it."

p. 41

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
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Apology

686-04

STATEMENTS OF ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY

- ♥ *I know that what I did was wrong. I can try to excuse myself, but there is no excuse. Pure and simple, what I did was selfish and wrong.*
- ♥ *I made a big mistake. At the time, I didn't think much about what I was doing. But in retrospect, I guess that's the problem. I wish I had thought before I acted. What I did was wrong.*
- ♥ *The way I spoke to you was wrong. It was harsh and untrue. I spoke out of anger, trying to justify myself. The way I talked to you was unkind and unloving. I hope you will forgive me.*
- ♥ *I repeated a mistake that we've discussed before. I really messed up. I know that it was my fault.*

p. 50

Restitution

686-05

STATEMENTS OF RESTITUTION

- ♥ *Is there anything I can do to make up for what I have done?*
- ♥ *I know I have hurt you deeply, and I feel like I should do something to repay you for the hurt I've caused. Can you give me a suggestion?*
- ♥ *I don't feel right just saying "I'm sorry." I want to make up for what I've done. What would you consider appropriate?*
- ♥ *I know that I've inconvenienced you. May I give you some of my time to balance things out?*
- ♥ *I regret that I've damaged your honor. May I make a (public) correction?*
- ♥ *I've broken this promise a million times. Would you like for me to put my commitment to you in writing this time?*

p. 67