

Heavenly Husbands

by J. Mike Minnix

TITLE:	Heavenly Husbands
BIBLE BOOK:	1 Peter 3 : 7-12
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SUBJECT:	Husbands; Marriage; Home
SERIES:	A Marriage Made In Heaven
OBJECTIVE:	This sermon is designed to help husbands truly live devoted lives for God and committed lives toward their wives. In fact, the best thing a dad can do for his children is to really love Jesus and really love their mother!

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Introduction

The children begged for a hamster, and after the usual vows from the children that they alone would care for it, they got one. They named it "Danny." Two months later, when Mom found herself responsible for cleaning and feeding the hamster, she located a prospective new home for it. The children took the news of Danny's imminent departure pretty well, though one of them remarked, "He's been around here a long time - we will miss him."

"Yes," Mom replied. "But he's too much work for one person and since I'm that one person, I say he goes."

Another child offered, "Well, maybe if he wouldn't eat so much and wouldn't be so messy we could keep him."

But Mom was firm. "It's time to take Danny to his new home now. "Go get his cage."

"Danny," they said with one voice and many tears, "we thought you said Daddy!"

Written in a Father's Day card: "Dad, everything I know I learned from you, except for ONE thing that I learned on my own - the family car can do 110 mph!" Happy Father's Day!

I read the following somewhere, and how poignant it is:

"Daddy had a little boy,
His soul was white as snow.
He never went to Sunday School
Cause Daddy wouldn't go.
He never heard the Word of God.
That thrills the childish mind,
While other children went to class,
This child was left behind.
As he grew from babe to youth,
Dad saw to his dismay,
A soul that once was snowy white,
Became a dingy grey.
Realizing that his son was lost,
Dad tried to win him back.
But now the soul that once was white,
Had turned an ugly black.
Dad even started back to church,
And Bible study too;
He begged the preacher,
'Isn't there a thing you can do?'
The preacher tried, failed, and said
'We're just too far behind;
I tried to tell you years ago,
But you would pay me no mind.'
And so another soul was lost,
That once was white as snow;
Sunday School would have helped,
But Daddy wouldn't go."

This is the second part of a two-part sermon series on the larger subject: A MARRIAGE MADE IN HEAVEN. We have already considered Heavenly Wives, so let us proceed with the topic of Heavenly Husbands.

Today we come to 1 Peter 3:7-12. Though this passage does not deal directly with fathers, it does deal with husbands. I remember a quote from a few years ago which read, "The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." Today we are going to concentrate upon husbands according to God's directives.

I. A Heavenly Husband Is To Be Similar To Christ

This passage begins with the words, "in the same way." This points back to the way of the wife. When we read about the wife, we discover that the Scripture begins with the words, "in the same way." Thus, the entire passage concerning wives and husbands points back to a passage concerning Christ. The husband is to imitate the character and attitude of Jesus. He is to especially do this in his home life. In what ways is he to do this?

A. He is to be Sacrificial

As Jesus laid down His life for the church, the husband is to lay down his life for his wife and family. Did you hear about the two deacons that went fishing one Sunday. One of them got to feeling bad about it and said, "I guess we should have gone to church today instead of fishing."

The other replied, "Don't feel bad, I couldn't go to church today anyway cause my wife is home sick in bed."

That man was not in love with his wife, his church or his Lord!

B. He is to be Steadfast

No matter what insults were cast at Jesus, he did not return them. He was steadfastly dedicated to His purpose and His Father's will. Note in the passage in chapter 3 that Peter tells us to be careful with our tongue. Husband, I would advise you to be careful in the use of your tongue in your home. One man has said, "Never yell at your wife unless the house is on fire."

C. He is to be Submissive

As the wife is to be submissive to her husband, he is supposed to be submissive to God. A wife deserves a husband like the one defined in the Bible. This is tall order, but it is a Biblical one.

II. A Heavenly Husband Is To Be Strongly Committed

A. He is Committed to His Master

When a husband is committed to Jesus as Master and Lord, his wife has no reason to fear his faithfulness.

B. He is Committed to His Marriage

Someone has well said, "If more men were self-starters in the area of communication, fewer wives would be cranks."

C. He is Committed to His Mate

One husband remarked, "People ask us the secret of our long marriage. It's really quite simple. Two evenings a week we take time to go out to a restaurant. A quiet dinner, soft music, some candlelight, a slow walk home does us a world of good - she goes on Tuesdays; I go Fridays."

Seriously, husbands must be committed to their wives. In fact, real love is all about commitment. Love is not a feeling, love is a commitment. Husbands must base their devotion to their wives on their devotion to their wives. No, I didn't say that incorrectly. You are devoted because you are devoted, not because you feel devoted! For example, a man may be devoted to his job. He doesn't always feel like going to work, but he goes. He knows that he must. That is the way a man must be in marriage.

III. A Heavenly Husband Is Steadfastly Considerate

Somerset Maugham tells of his mother. She was lovely and charming and beloved by all. His father was not by any means handsome, and had few social and surface gifts and graces. Someone once said to his mother, "When everyone is in love with you, and when you could have had anyone you liked, how can you remain faithful to that ugly little man you married?" She answered simply: "He never hurts my feelings."

There could be no finer tribute to a husband than that. I wish my wife could say that about me. We will not ask her in this service about that. I don't think any of you other men would want us to ask your wives that question either!

A. He is Considerate as a Provider

The most important thing he provides is stability for his wife emotionally. That is her greatest weakness! Men and women are different in this area. The man must be considerate of his wife in this regard.

Dr. Willard Harley in his book entitled, "His Needs, Her Needs," points out the priorities of the sexes in the order of importance:

A man desires:

Sexual fulfillment

Recreational companionship

An attractive spouse

Domestic support

Admiration of his wife

A woman desires:

Affection

Conversation

Honesty and Openness

Financial Support

Family Commitment

A man must recognize that the needs of his wife are different from his own. He must take time to consider those needs and respond to them.

B. He is Considerate as a Partner

This following sad note was sent to Ann Landers.

Dear Ann Landers:

My husband doesn't talk to me. He just sits there night after night, reading the newspaper or looking at T.V. When I ask him a question, he grunts "huh, or Uh'huh." Sometimes he doesn't even grunt uh'huh. All he really needs is a housekeeper and somebody to sleep with him when he feels like it. He can buy both. There are times when I wonder why he got married."

Wives need a partner in life. The husband is to be that partner. The Bible speaks of the wife as a help-mate to the husband. How can a wife help a husband who shows little affection and does not share complete and total partnership with his wife? It has been my experience through the 30 + years that I have been in the ministry that men who see their wives as full partners and treat them accordingly, have a wife who makes the effort well worth while!

C. He is Considerate as a Praying Man

A wife needs a husband who prays and prays regularly. Prayer will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from prayer. Praying for your wife can help you know how to love her more. God can show you things in prayer that you cannot see any other way.

D. He is Considerate as a Pure Man

The only way he can be pure is to first know Jesus. How about it men, are we really saved? Have you

given your heart to God? Some men cannot be good husbands for one simple reason, they did not know the prince of love - Jesus Christ.

But even if we are saved, we need cleansing from time to time. We need for the blood of Jesus to wash us anew and afresh.