Please open your Bibles to the third chapter of I Peter.

If you were with us last Lord’s day, we looked at what the LORD had to say to all you wives. He talked about your DUTY, which is to live in submission to your husband. We learned submission doesn’t mean you are to be a slave to your husband……or his doormat……but that submission means humbly accepting your husband’s God-given role as the “head of the home” as Christ is the head of the Church.

But not only did the LORD have something to say about your DUTY wives, He also had something to say about your BEAUTY. And that was that your true beauty comes from WITHIN not from WITHOUT. And that beauty is a GENTLE and QUIET SPIRIT.

In today’s message we are going to be looking at the LORD’S word to us husbands.

Guys, let me say something right off the bat. Don’t be fooled by the fact Peter spent SIX verses addressing the WIVES and only ONE verse talking to us husbands.

As we are going to see, this ONE SINGLE VERSE of scripture is “loaded” with instructions to us husbands.
Let’s look at the verse together, shall we?

READ: I PETER 3:7

PRAYER

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INTRODUCTION

The New Testament has a lot to say about the relationship between the husband and wife. And most of that teaching comes to us from the pen of two men: Paul and Peter.

Paul was not married at the time he wrote his instructions to husbands and wives, and, so far as we know, the apostle Paul was never married. That doesn’t mean Paul’s writings on marriage carry no weight, because he wrote those instructions to Christian couples under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

But Peter’s writings on marriage come from a different perspective. We learn in the Gospels that Peter was a “married man” when he first became a disciple of Jesus Christ.

One of the very first miracles Jesus performed was to heal Peter’s mother-in-law. (Mark 1:30,31) And we know Peter’s wife traveled with him as he traveled throughout the Churches in the Mediterranean world. (I Corinthians 9:5)

So husbands, may we keep in mind, Peter is writing these instructions to you and me from a very “practical” standpoint. Peter is “one of us.” He is a Christian husband writing to Christian husbands.
Before we look at what Peter has to say to us, I want it to be understood husbands that I speak to you this morning, NOT as the “perfect or ideal husband” but rather as the “imperfect man” that I am. I speak to you as a Christian husband who has experienced many “growing pains” and continues to do so.

Like all of the word of God, the scripture verse we are looking at this morning is a “double-edged sword.” This verse revealed to me my strengths as a husband and at the same time my weaknesses. It revealed areas where I have improved as a husband and areas where I still need a great deal of improvement. I believe you will see the same by the time this message is completed.

So with those thoughts in mind, let’s see what Peter has to say to us husbands.

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First of all, husbands, Peter gives us..........................

I. A Word About Our Consideration (v. 7a)

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives. (v. 7a)

1. Guys, let’s be honest about ourselves here! We tend to hear what we want to hear, don’t we? When our wives say, “Supper’s ready” our ears stand up like a Doberman Pincher. But when our wives say, “Honey, the trash needs to be taken out” we become as “deaf as a doorknob!” Wives, am I right?

2. Husbands, I’m not a “betting man,” but if I were, I would bet the only thing you heard in the message to the wives last week was that part about “the wives being submissive to the husband.” And some of you probably “latched on” to that part about the wife calling her husband “Master” in verse 6.
3. Husbands, listen very carefully to what Peter is saying to us in the first part of verse 7……

“Husbands, in the SAME WAY be CONSIDERATE as you live with your wives.”

4. When Peter says “Husbands in the same way” he is issuing a “reciprocating” command. You guys who own a “reciprocating” saw know it cuts both ways. This matter of our wives “submitting” to us cuts both ways.

What Peter is saying men is this: If you and I want our wives to submit to us then we must treat them with consideration.

5. Husbands, when you and I are considerate of our wife’s needs……..her feelings……..and her desires….it will create an environment where she will “blossom” as a godly wife and mother.

But if we are not considerate of her needs, her feelings and her desires……..if we are demanding and overbearing and condescending……..it will create an environment where our wife’s spirit will “wilt and dry up” like vase of ten day old flowers.

6. The scriptures give us some guidelines as to what it means to show “consideration” toward our wives.

(a) Consideration means: “Loving your wife as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her.” (Ephesians 5:25)

How does Christ love the Church? He loves her with an “extravagant love!” Husbands, our love for our wife should know no bounds!
(b) Consideration means: “Don’t be harsh with your wife.” (Colossians 3:19)

Husbands, when speaking to our wives we need to think about our words and the tone we use before we speak, not after.

And you know those certain looks we give our wife when she says something we don’t want to hear or something we don’t agree with? Guys you know “the look” I’m talking about. (demonstrate “the look.”) Guys, we shouldn’t even give our wives “the look” when she’s got her back turned to us, because she has eyes in the back of her head!

(c) Consideration means: “Praising your wife in public as well as in private.” (Proverbs 31:28, 29)

“PRAISE is to our wife’s ears what water is to the rose bush.” Men, we should use praise generously and criticism sparingly when it comes to our wives.

(d) Consideration means: “Complimenting your wife’s beauty.” (Song of Solomon 4:7; 7:1-8)

In the Song of Solomon, Solomon said to his wife, “All beautiful you are, my darling, there is no flaw in you.” (SS 4:7)

In other parts of the Book, Solomon pays her even more compliments: “Your hair is like a flock of goats” ......”Your teeth are like a flock of sheep just shorn....each has its twin; not a one of them is alone (in other words he’s complimenting her for still having all her teeth! ) “Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon.”

Then he “swept her off her feet” with these words: “You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride; you have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes.”

Husbands, our wives need to know we are captivated by their beauty! They don’t need to know if ALL men find them attractive, they just need to know if YOU do!
Consideration also means: “Giving your wife the confidence and assurance that you want to be with her “till death do you part.” (Matthew 19:5)

Do you know one of my greatest hopes and desires in this life is to grow old with my beautiful wife. We have traveled together on life’s journey for so long and I want to finish that journey with her.

I often imagine Linda and me sitting in rocking chairs on our deck when we are 100 years old “gumming” our food and wiping “drool” off of each others chin. Folks, it just doesn’t get any better than that!

7. Husbands, may we dedicate ourselves to “treating our wives with consideration.”

Secondly, husbands, Peter gives us..........

II. A Word About Appreciation (v. 7b)

Treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you in the gracious gift of life. (v. 7b)

1. Guys, Peter tells us two ways in which we are to “appreciate” our wives.

(A) First, we are to appreciate our wives as a “Vessel of HONOR.”

“Treat them with respect as the ‘weaker partner.’”

Husbands, when Peter refers to our wives as being “the weaker partner” he doesn’t mean they are “weaker” intellectually.....morally.....or spiritually. He is referring to the difference between the physical strength of a man and woman.
Real men…..Godly men…..do NOT use their PHYSICAL STRENGTH to abuse or take advantage of their wife’s physical weakness. But rather, the godly husband will treat his wife as though she is a “priceless, valuable vessel or vase” that could easily be broken.

Men, God has given us the responsibility of “protecting” our wife…..our “treasure”…..”our priceless vessel."

If someone were to break into our home and in any way, shape or form try to harm my wife, they would have to kill me first before I would ever allow them to harm “my precious vessel.”

If another man were to ever try to come between my wife and me, he’s going to have the “fight of his life on his hands” because I am going to “protect my vessel of honor.”

Husbands, our wives need to know we appreciate them so much that we would be willing to “lay down our lives” for them if needs be.

(B) Secondly, we are to appreciate our wives as HEIRS of SALVATION (v.7b )

Now what does that mean? It means, husbands, that woman we are married to isn’t just our wife, she is our sister-in-Christ.

It means that we will not only share this earthly life together as husband and wife, we will share eternal life together, not as husband and wife, but as joint-heirs with Jesus Christ.

2. Husbands, may we treat our wives with appreciation as though she is our “valuable, priceless vessel of honor” and our fellow “heir of salvation.”

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Now fellas, look closely at verse 7 again.........

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives. (That was a word about our CONSIDERATION ) And treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life. (That was a word about our APPRECIATION ).
Now in the last part of verse 7 Peter gives us husbands……

III. A Word About Our **INSPIRATION** (v. 7c)

“so that nothing will hinder your prayers.” (v. 7c)

1. Peter closes this verse with a very **strong** and somewhat strange warning that we husbands should take with the utmost seriousness.

   “so that nothing will hinder your prayers.”

2. The greek word for “hindered” in this verse is a **military** term for an army digging a trench in a road to stop the enemy’s advance.

3. Husbands, Peter is warning us what Satan will do to our “spiritual life” if we do not take our God-given responsibility to our wives seriously.

4. Christian men, when you and I fail to show our wives the proper **consideration** and the proper **appreciation** it has a profound effect on our “inspiration.”

   -In other words, **our relationship with our wife** has a profound impact upon our relationship with **God**.

   -When we are out of **fellowship** with our wives we are at the same time **out of fellowship with God**.

5. Have you ever called a business or a doctor’s office and been “put on hold?” Its frustrating isn’t it?

   Guys, that’s what happens to our “prayer life” when we don’t treat our wives right. God “puts us on hold” until we get things right with our wife.
6. Fellas, God is so concerned that we as husbands, treat our wives properly, that He will “interrupt” His relationship with us until we start treating our wives right.

7. Pretty serious stuff, huh guys?

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CONCLUSION

A couple married for 15 years began having more than usual disagreements. They wanted to make their marriage work and agreed on an idea the wife had. For one month they planned to drop a slip in a "Fault" box. One box for the wife and another for the husband, to “air” their daily irritations.

The wife was diligent in her efforts and approach: "leaving the jelly top off the jar," "wet towels on the shower floor," "dirty socks not in hamper," “leaving the toilet lid up” on and on until the end of the month.

After dinner, at the end of the month, they exchanged boxes. The husband reflected on what he had done wrong. Then the wife opened her box and began reading. They were all the same, the message on each slip was, "I love you!"

Pick up Bible and read VERSE 7 to close.