

# How does a man REALLY love his wife?

TEXT: 1 Peter 3:7

Thesis: To show husbands how to meet the needs of their wives.

1. **Permanence** – “*dwell with her.*” A wife should never question her husband's faithfulness and commitment to their marriage vows. Permanence is more than living under the same roof, eating at the same table, sleeping in the same bed and paying the same mortgage; it involves a deep dwelling with her. A “till death do us part” kind of permanence. I tell my wife regularly, “Sweetie, you’re stuck with me!” Cf. Matthew 19:6b.
2. **Perception** – “*according to knowledge.*” Know more about your wife than her height, weight, hair color, favorite food and eye color. Know her fears, goals, desires and ambitions. Know what makes her scared, happy, sad and excited. Few things make a woman more secure than knowing that her husband really knows her. Cf. Prov. 24:3.
3. **Praise** – “*giving honor unto the wife.*” The word “honor” means, “praise.” It’s used in 1:19 (“precious”) referring to the blood of Jesus. Praise your wife because she is precious. She has been carefully crafted and beautifully women by her Creator. Cf. Prov. 31:28.
4. **Protection** – “*weaker vessel.*” Women are weaker physically not morally or mentally. Men are stronger so you can pull her close and protect her. Christ died for the Church (Eph. 5:25); be willing to protect your wife to the point of death. Cf. Eph. 5:28.
5. **Provision** – “*weaker vessel.*” Women are thrifty and frugal (Prov. 31:10-31), however, God holds husbands responsibility for providing for the family (1 Tim. 5:8). Blessed is the husband that has as his wife a “worker at home” (Tit. 2:5). This certainly does not suggest that her home is her prison. Rather, she cares for the home as the husband provides for her needs. Provide your wife with a life not just a living. Cf. Eph. 5:29.
6. **Partner** – “*heirs together of the grace of life.*” God promises inheritance in heaven to those who are “born again” (Jn. 3:3,5; 1 Pet. 1:1-4). Your wife needs you as her partner in reaching heaven (“grace of life”). Share with her the same commitment, dedication, moral standard (Bible) and goals. Move forward together with her through life striving everyday for the eternal home of glory. Cf. John 14:1-6.
7. **Prayers** – “*that your prayers be not hindered.*” Pray FOR your wife and WITH her. The Bible is God speaking to us; prayer is when we talk to Him. Pray together! It is often said: “The family that prays together, stays together.” True! Cf. Philippians 4:6; James 5:16.

**Conclusion:** God made your wife and knows her needs. If you strive to meet her needs as God identifies, your marriage will be happy and prosperous.

- Mark N. Posey  
(published material)

**FOUNDATION:** New Orleans is swampy, spongy and unstable, mainly because the city exists below sea level. Whenever a building of any size is erected, the contractor must first bring in a large pile-driving machine to pound long telephone poles into the ground. These treated pillars become the foundation on which the structure sits. Otherwise, the edifice would slowly disappear into the delta mud, having no adequate support.

**Pulpit Preview** is sent to all that desire it for the purpose of sharing sermon ideas & useful illustrations. It is sent via email on a bi-weekly bases. Editor: Mark N. Posey. He is the preaching minister for the Austinville Church of Christ (2833 Danville Rd. SW Decatur, AL 35603) since 1994. Please send comments to—[pulpitpreview@austinvillecoc.org](mailto:pulpitpreview@austinvillecoc.org) (or) to the address above. **Thanks, MNP.**

# Pulpit Preview

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## Thank God for Faithful Christian Parents!

Recently while watching “Good Morning America” my attention was drawn to a story about the “most gruesome murder in Los Angeles history.” They began showing diagrams and pictures of a husband and wife who were murdered in their own home by their two sons. I couldn’t look; it was too brutal. The story described the “mental, emotional and sexual abuse” of the two boys by their parents. At that point my heart sank and I know that my only action should be to drop to my knees and thank Almighty God for blessing ME with faithful Christian parents.

There are some things one witnesses that promises to change our lives forever, it will change our thoughts and actions. This particular story has done that. From that day, I pledged to begin and end each day thanking God for the good Christian home in which I was raised.

I grew up in a home where I never heard my mother and father yell at one another; furthermore, I never heard them exchange a cross word. My parents didn’t drink alcohol, they didn’t smoke or take drugs. Cursing was never heard and fighting was absolutely forbidden. Prayer began and ended each day; it preceded each meal and every aspect of our life. Christ was the center of our home and God’s word the standard by which we conducted our lives. I was taught by their words and their actions to love, respect and forgive. I was taught the importance of responsibility and commitment—to my family, and ultimately to the Lord’s church.

As I was growing up, I watched them handle each and every situation and problem with dignity and love. I knew by the tears they shed and the prayers they prayed that times were never easy, but as they lived out Philippians 4:13 before my very eyes, a little boy was learning what being a Christian was all about. You might say I had perfect parents. YES, I did! They were and still are the most Christ-like individuals I know. I wouldn’t change a single thing about the way I grew up!

Solomon said, “*Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it*” (Prov 22:6). Mom and Dad, thank you for your Godly training that led me to become a faithful Christian and a preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You will never know how much I love and respect you. **MNP**

# *The Difference a DAD makes!*

Being a father is tough—but the Bible gives plenty of counsel about how to do it right. For example, Ephesians 6:4 says, “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” I don’t have all the answers about being a father—nobody does—but I do know that if we’ll follow the Biblical guidelines for parenting we’ll have more success than we would have doing it any other way! Therefore, how can a father “bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord”?

**1. PRAY FOR THEM.** Scripture contains many examples of fathers praying for their children: Jairus (Mark 5), concerned father (Mark 9), Job (Job 1:5) and David (1 Chron. 29:19). One of the greatest gifts fathers can give their children is the gift of praying for them. We should pray for their protection, salvation, needs, happiness, faithfulness and success. We can ask God to help them be good, strong, responsible Christians, to lead useful lives and to glorify God in all they do. Our prayers don’t have to be fancy; they just have to be sincere. *Charles Mann, the former linemen for the Washington Redskins, prays over his children every day. He makes sure he is home with them each evening, and when he puts them to bed he places his hand upon each one and says a prayer. He says, “I think the power comes from them bearing my concern.”* When a man prays for his children he creates a bond that becomes stronger with each day. When you pray for your children, you’re making an investment—you’re giving them your heart.

**2. SPEND TIME WITH THEM.** One survey revealed that the average five year old spends only 25 minutes per week with his father. That equals less than three weeks total time together in 18 years! On the other hand, the average teen will send and receive approximately 10,000+ text messages each month. We wonder why we struggle influencing our children. *Charles Francis Adams, a 19th century political figure, kept a diary. One day he entered, “Went fishing with my son today—a day wasted.” His son, Brook Adams, also kept a diary. On that same day Brook Adams made this entry, “Went fishing with my dad today—it was the most wonderful day of my life!”* This is how the Bible says to do it...“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Deut. 6:6). It takes more than 3.5 minutes a day to make a positive impact on a child’s life. The secret to being a great dad is simple: spend quality time with your kids. Spending time requires effort; it is an investment. When you give your children your time, you are giving them your heart.

**3. GIVE THEM RESPONSIBILITY.** In Matthew 21, Jesus told a story about a father who had two sons. He sent both of them to work in the vineyard. One said he would, but didn’t. The other said he wouldn’t, but later changed his mind and did. By giving his sons responsibility, the father learned

which son was obedient and which one wasn’t. He knew which son could handle responsibility and which son couldn’t. Our children need to have responsibility. They also need to know that we trust them to handle it. *Once on the Cosby show, Theo, the teenage son, wanted desperately to cut the Thanksgiving turkey. Getting to carve the turkey was a Huxtable rite of passage, and Theo believed he was ready. Of course, Cliff Huxtable gave his son a hard time, and affectionately teased him throughout the whole process, but ultimately Theo was allowed to carve the turkey – and it was a big deal.* Our children like being given responsibility. Teaching your children responsibility is not easy though. It takes effort and time. Make sure they know the value of their soul and meaning of stewardship. Teach them to manage money, love the Church and serve the Lord. Demonstrate that Christian living is the only life worth living and Heaven is the greatest goal. It’s not always easy, because it requires that you give them your heart.

**4. GIVE THEM A SENSE OF IDENTITY.** No matter how dysfunctional your family tree might be, there are positive aspects of your heritage that you can pass on to your children. You can tell them about heroes in your family, you can tell about positive traits that members of your family possess, you can inspire them to live up to the family name. The same can be said about Christian living. It is important for children to hear about great men and women of faith who have had an impact on the history of the church. When children hear the stories about faithful family members this helps them to identify with their spiritual forefathers. It gives them roots that will prove to be of tremendous benefit later in life. This is why the Lord said to Moses... “tell in the hearing of your son and your son’s son the mighty things I have done in Egypt, and My signs which I have done among them, that you may know that I am the Lord” (Exod. 10:2).

*There is a story from the Civil War about a Quaker family named Smythe. Against his father’s wishes, the son ran off and enlisted. The father didn’t hear from his son for almost two years, then word came the boy had been wounded in battle. The father left the farm and traveled to where the troops were. He made his way to the commander and asked about his son. The commander said that there had been heavy action earlier that day and that many had fallen wounded and still lay in the trenches. It was late at night, so that father lit a lantern and walked to the scene of the battle. As he arrived, he was filled with despair when he saw, by the dim light of his lamp, the number of wounded and dying. The father began calling loudly, “Jonathan Smythe, thy father seeketh after thee.” He would walk a little way and cry again, “Jonathan Smythe, thy father seeketh after thee.” Here and there, a groan could be heard. A young soldier would say, “I wish that were my father.” Mr. Smythe continued his search, calling for his son for several hours. Finally, he heard a faint voice, “Father, I’m over here.” And then the wounded boy said, “I knew you would come.” A father gives his heart to his children. That is the test of fatherhood. It is nothing to do with money or success. What makes a man a great father is that he gives his children his heart.*

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