

## Family Issues #8 – Honoring the Women in Your Home (1 Pet 3:7)

**Introduction** – In reclaiming biblical, male, masculine leadership in the home we are out-of-hand denying egalitarianism, which is a great judgment upon the church and surrounding culture today. Our reaction must not be carnal, ‘putting women back in their place.’ It must be biblical, lifting women back to their noble position in order to produce the fruit of honor towards women that the scriptures require.

**A Culture of Honor Starting with the Wife** (1 Pet 3:7) – This verse is to be applied not only with the idea of instructing a man how to treat his wife. This is also the basis for teaching his son how to treat his mother, his own wife one day, and women generally.

**“Husbands, likewise...”** – Christ is our perfect example as to how we are to dwell with one another (2:21-25). Husbands particularly should manifest this servant-leadership in dwelling with their wives with understanding and giving honor as to a weaker vessel. Think about how much weaker the bride is than Christ. Think about how that Husband seeks to know and love and sanctify His bride by His understanding of her and what she needs. Think of how much honor He is giving and will give to this weaker vessel. This is what every husband is to show his bride.

**Teaching Honor** – What do the children learn? They should see a man who sacrifices his own desires for hers. They should see a man who leads with understanding and obvious love. They should see a man who does not compete with his wife, who is always thanking her for another meal, for how she keeps the home, for how she instructs the children, for how she ministers in good deeds to others.

**Living as Coheirs** – It should be obvious that she is also your sister in Christ, and on that level you share the same position before God – saved by grace alone (Gal 3:28-29). It should be obvious as to how he needs her nobility alongside him in order to effectively have dominion over the earth.

**Gender Differences** – All of this assumes that while a man is to understand and honor his wife, he is not to do so by becoming feminine. He needs to get in touch with her feelings, not his. He needs to lead her in the noble work of home-centered ministry, but he is not to be home-centered *in that way*.

**Honor Your Mother** (Prov 1:7-8, 6:20-21, 31:1, Eph 6:1-3) – A son is to honor his father *and his mother*. He should learn how to honor his mother by watching his father and by hearing the Word. Proverbs tells him that her word is law. Her word is a pacemaker of life for his heart and precious gold and jewels around his neck. Only a fool would reject the counsel of his mother. Of course, these commands are for daughters as well, who are instructed to obey their parents in the Lord.

**Honor and Manners** – Honor must be manifest in how we live, talk, and acknowledge one another. It is important that children do not grow up thinking that manners are something *their mother* made them do for her. Rather, they must see that their father taught them that ‘this is how we honor your mother; this is how we show respect towards women. This is why you say, ‘yes, m’am’ and not ‘yeeaaaahoooookaayy’. This is why you stand for women, hold their doors for them and the like. And this is why you pay particular close attention to your mother whenever she is talking to you.’

**The Connection of Honor to Sexual Fidelity** (Heb 13:4) – The marriage bed is *honorable*. If he has grown up his whole life respecting women, it will be harder for a son to degrade a woman when he is tempted with sexual immorality – and he will be. But this is a place to address two of his greatest temptations: fornication and lust.

**The Dishonorable Harlot** (Prov 6:20 – 7:27) – Why should he not do this? There will be days where his body will tell him how pleasurable this would be. But his father and mother have instructed him – and her word is law. He has been shown the path of life and the path of destruction. He knows what consequences will come. He does not want to be destroyed. And he struggles because he is used to honoring women and their femininity, not despising them.

**Dishonor in One’s Heart** (Matt 5:27-30) – But what about what goes on in his imagination? What about what he lets himself watch, read, and listen to? Do these things really dishonor women? Yes, and Jesus says it is so important that he should be ready to mutilate himself, if that would solve the problem. Women are trashed today because our culture openly invites our boys to lust after them for a small fee. Hear the Word: to lust after a woman is to commit adultery in your heart. ‘Decent’ people do not like this teaching, because this application makes all men adulterers. Holiness requires that we not even desire to sin (Prov 24:8-9). Those who give themselves to impurity will be lost (Gal 5:19-21). Justifying faith is persevering faith, so those who do not pursue holiness will not see the Lord (Heb 12:14). Those who forsake the fight against lust will perish (Col 3:5-6, Matt 5:30). A young man must learn to fight, and here will be one of his greatest battles.

**Protecting Your Sisters With Honor** – A young boy should be taught early on to respect his sister because she is a girl. As they grow up together, his outlook towards her should always be one of honor and protection. Therefore it is not to be weird if brothers and sisters enjoy hanging out together, talking with one another.

**Who's Weaker?** (Song of Solomon 8:8-10) – We are commanded to protect our sisters. Is this because they are weak? Yes in one sense (8:4). But in another sense, this is because men are so weak.

**Conclusion** – The station of a woman is a place of great dignity and honor, whether a girl, a virgin, a wife and mother, even as a widow or elderly lady. It is honored and respected throughout Scripture and must be recovered in our culture as well.

*Dave Hatcher – August 31, 2003*