



GIVING HONOR
TO THE
WEAKER VESSEL

1 PETER 3:7

THE TEXT IN CONTEXT

Trials of Suffering as a Christian

- ❖ Hope – 1 Peter 1:3-5
- ❖ Faith tested – 1 Peter 1:6-9
- ❖ Suffering (*paschō*, 12x in 1 Peter) – 2:19, 20, 21, 23; 3:14, 17, 18; 4:1ab, 15, 19; 5:10 – for doing good.
- ❖ Call to faithfulness in suffering – 1 Peter 1:14-16; 2:2, 4-5, 9, 11-12



THE TEXT IN CONTEXT

Relationships and Obligations

- ❖ Civil government – **1 Peter 2:13-17**
- ❖ Servant to master – **1 Peter 2:18-20**
- ❖ Wives to husbands – **1 Peter 3:1-6**
- ❖ Husbands to wives – **1 Peter 3:7**



THE TEXT

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Conduct Befitting Submission to God – *“that your prayers may not be hindered.”*

- ❖ How one dwells with his wife affects his standing with God.
- ❖ Prayer (fellowship) – **John 15:7; James 5:16; 1 John 3:22; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 Peter 5:7**
- ❖ Hindered (through sin) – **Isaiah 59:1-2; John 9:31**



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Treatment Knowledgeable of the Wife and the Word – *“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding”*

- ❖ *“understanding”* – *gnōsis* – *“according to knowledge”* (ASV, KJV, YLT)
- ❖ Creation – **Genesis 2:18, 21-24;**
1 Corinthians 11:8-9, 11-12
- ❖ Obligation to her – **Ephesians 5:23, 25, 28-29**
- ❖ Knowledge of her – *“one flesh”* – sharing life.



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Fellow Heirship Deserving Honor – *“and as being heirs together of the grace of life”*

- ❖ Created in God’s image – **Genesis 1:27**
- ❖ No gender distinction in Christ – **Galatians 3:26-29**
- ❖ Marriage not in heaven – **Matthew 22:30**
- ❖ Paul’s estimation of women – **Romans 16:1-4, 6-7**
- ❖ NOTE: does not imply equality of earthly roles.



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Weakness Understood as Deserving Honor –

“giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel”

- ❖ *“giving”* – apportioning what is due, appropriate.
- ❖ *“honor”* – assigning value, esteem.
- ❖ *“as to”* – the perspective from which that honor is seen, and appropriately bestowed (*“weaker vessel”*)
(cf. 2 Timothy 2:20)



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The Weaker Vessel, and the Honor Due Her

Physically

- ❖ “wife” – *gynaikeios* (1x) (ADJ) – feminine (STRONG); womanly (VINE)
 - ❖ Cf. **Genesis 2:18** – “comparable” does not mean same.
- ❖ Giving honor – Providing (**1 Timothy 5:8**); Protecting (**Ephesians 5:25, 28-29**)



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Regarding Authority

- ❖ Wives have submissive role – Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18; 1 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Peter 3:1, 5-6; Titus 2:3-5
- ❖ Not abusing authority – cf. 1 Peter 2:18, 20; 5:2-3
- ❖ Giving honor – Service (Ephesians 5:25-27); Needs (1 Peter 3:7); Support of her authority in home (1 Timothy 5:14; Proverbs 1:8-9); Aid to reach full potential (Titus 2:4-5); Firm spiritual decisions (Joshua 24:15); Valuing submissive support (cf. Ephesians 1:22-23)



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The Weaker Vessel, and the Honor Due Her

Emotionally

- ❖ Exhortation to wife to overcome fear – **1 Peter 3:5-6**
 - ❖ Consider bravery – **1 Corinthians 16:13** – *andrizomai* – (from *aner*, “a man”) “to play the man,” (VINE)
- ❖ Consider her position of submission, especially in context of tribulation – **1 Peter 1:6-7; 3:5-6**
- ❖ Giving honor – Reassurance, bolster faith, not using authority to strike fear, using authority to dispel fear (cf. **Hebrews 2:10, 14-15**)





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