

The Book of 1 Peter
Chapter 3 Part 1
“An Arm And A Leg”

Return To
All Commentary

One morning as Adam was walking through the garden of Eden he was feeling particularly lonely, so the Lord asked him, **“What is wrong Adam”?**

Adam answered: **“All of the other animals in the garden have a mate to talk to but I have no one like myself to share my thoughts with”.**

So the lord said to Adam **“Well Adam this is not good that you are alone I will make for you a companion someone like yourself and I will call her “Woman”**

“She will cook for you Adam she will wash your clothes and she will always agree with every decision that you make”.

“She will bear you children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them.”

“She will not nag at you, and she will always be the first to admit that she was wrong when you have had a disagreement”.

“She will never give you the cold shoulder, and will freely give to you her love and her compassion whenever you need.”

Adam answered the Lord—**“Wow Lord that sounds great! but what would a woman like that cost me?”**

The Lord said **“Oh not much Adam just one arm and one leg!”**

Adam thought for a moment scratching his head and then he asked **“Well Lord what can I get for just a rib???”**

Now...lest you think I am just picking on the ladies...

The top 10 reasons why the Lord created Eve

10. The lord worried that Adam would always be lost in the garden because men hate to ask for directions...

9. The lord knew that Adam would one day need someone to hand him the TV remote. Because (men don't want to see what's on television, they want to see what else is on television!)

8. The lord knew that Adam would never buy a new fig leaf when his wore out and would therefore need eve to get one for him...
7. The lord knew that Adam would never make a doctor's appointment for himself...
6. The lord knew that Adam would never remember which night was garbage night...
5. The lord knew that if the world was to be populated, men would never be able to handle childbearing...
4. As "keeper of the garden," Adam would never remember where he put his tools...
3. The scriptural account of creation indicates Adam needed someone to blame his troubles on when the Lord caught him hiding in the garden...
2. As the bible says, "**It is not good for man to be alone!**"

And the number 1 reason why the lord created eve...drum roll please...

1. When the lord finished the creation of Adam, he stepped back, scratched his head and said, "**I can do better than that.**"

Last Sunday, in 1 Peter chapter 2, we learned that all governments, leaders of countries, kings and presidents are placed into power by the Lord, for His own purposes.

- ☞ **Sometimes**, the Lord will place a **Godly man** or woman in power to bless the people of a nation with righteousness and Peace.
- ☞ **Other times**, as with the Pharaoh of Egypt of Cyrus, of the Medes and Persians, the Lord may put into power a **Pagan** leader or someone who does not know Him.
- ☞ **With Pharaoh**, his heart was already hard towards God, and by the signs and wonders that the Lord did through Moses and Aaron, Pharaohs heart grew completely hard.
- ☞ **The Lord then showed His great power** over Pharaoh, by taking His people, Israel out of Egypt, delivering them from 400 years of slavery to Pharaoh.

Then, there was Cyrus, who the Lord called by name 150 years before he was even born. The Lord spoke through Isaiah that Cyrus would be "**His Shepherd**", in allowing Israel to go back to their own land again after 70 years of captivity in Babylon.

- ☞ **When Daniel took the prophecy of Isaiah to Cyrus**, and showed to him where the Lord had described how Cyrus would "*Open up the double hung iron gates of Babylon*", exactly what Cyrus had done, as he had diverted the Euphrates river away from Babylon, lowering the water level, so that Cyrus men simply went into Babylon under the Gates that were in the Euphrates River.

All of this, was to remind us that every authority in the world, comes from the Lord. When we submit to that authority, we are really submitting to Jesus Himself.

- ☞ **When we rebel**, cheat, or speak against any government authority, we are rebelling against, cheating and speaking against Jesus Himself.

This thought continues this morning in the 3rd chapter of the Book of 1 Peter, with the fact that the Lord has placed in the Family, an order of Authority also, so that there can be love and order and balance.

Even Jesus humbled Himself and Submitted to the Father for us...

The husband submits to Jesus authority in the marriage...

The wife submits to the Husband's authority in the marriage...

The Children submit to the authority of the parents...

- ☞ **Submission to the order of authority** in a marriage and family, is really submission to Jesus.
- ☞ **Rebellion against the order of authority** is rebellion against Jesus.
- ☞ **But in this order of submission**, the ones that are in authority MUST do so with love as well as the care and well being of those that are submitted to them.

Now, first of all, this is not a study only for married couples. It is advice and counsel for the single person also... This is the way that every man should treat a woman, and the heart that every woman should have.

- ☞ **If you are single or divorced or have never been married** but someday hope that the Lord will give you a mate, listen up, learn now these skills so that you will be ready if He should give you someone...

1 Peter 3

1 Wives, likewise, **be submissive to your own husbands**, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,
2 when they observe your chaste (PURE) conduct accompanied by fear.

Elsie has a very interesting way of getting through my thick skull, and getting me to do the things she needs for me to do...

- ☞ **Whenever** she needs to get me to understand her, or something that she needs for me to do or change, she just prays for me.
- ☞ **She just takes me to the Lord** and says something like:

“Lord, you know that my husband is really a big dummy, but I love him Lord, could you please speak to him about how he talks to me, and encourage him to treat me the way you treat me Lord...”

or, *“Lord, you know Rob’s has selective hearing, and he only hears what he wants to hear, but Lord, we really need to get this thing done, and I have spoken to him about it, but he doesn’t seem to get it how important this is, could you speak to him?”*

And you know, whenever she just turns me over to the Lord in this way, He always speaks to me. Then suddenly I find myself doing the exact thing that Elsie prayed and asked the Lord to help her with.

...And she did it without a word to me...

- ☞ **Now if she** had come to me and climbed all over me about it, or gave me the silent treatment, or some other harsh method, all I would have done is either get mad, ignore her, or lecture her on lecturing me.
- ☞ **There is this gift that the Lord has given to women**, that by just a gentle and quiet spirit, a humbleness and a loving attitude, it can melt the heart of any man.

Guys do not respond well to force, we live and work in a world that puts pressure and force upon us everyday. So when we come home and get that kind of treatment, we just can't take it.

- ☞ **The Lord knows this about us men**, so here He shows to the ladies, the most effective way of getting through **our thick skulls** and **hard hearts**.

1 Peter 3

3 Do not let your adornment be **merely outward**—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—

4 rather **let it be the hidden person of the heart**, with the incorruptible beauty of a **gentle and quiet spirit**, which is very precious in the sight of God.

I don't know if you know it ladies, but as men, we are much more moved by a gentle and quiet spirit, and a hidden beauty of your heart, than we are by words, or even physical appearance.

- ☞ **Now, don't get me wrong**. Appearance is important to us men, and when it comes to whether I personally believe whether a woman should use makeup or fix her hair, I kind of feel like what J. Vernon McGee said in regards to whether a woman should wear makeup:

J Vernon Mc Gee

"If the Barn needs painting, then paint the barn..."

- ☞ **But for most men**, fewer words, a quieter and more gentler spirit, and just taking your husband to the Lord in prayer and turning him over to the Lord, is far more effective than harsh words, giving him the cold shoulder, or lectures.

1 Peter 3

5 For **in this manner, in former times**, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,

6 **as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord**, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

In Genesis 18, The Lord came to Abraham and Sarah to tell them that at 100 years old, the Lord was going to answer Abraham's prayer that he had prayed all of his life to have a son.

- ☞ **So, Abraham** rushes back home into the tent to tell Sarah to "*Hurry and make some bread cakes*" while he got one of the servants to fire up the BBQ.
- ☞ **Sarah laughed within herself**, at the thought that she would be a mother at the age of 90 years old.

Genesis 18:12

Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, **my lord being old also?**"

"Is it really possible that at 90 years old I could have the pleasure of having a son..."

- ☞ **Then Sarah** uses the word "*Lord*" to describe her husband Abraham.
- ☞ "**Adon**" in the Hebrew Language.
- ☞ **One of Jesus names** in the Old Testament is "**Adoni**", "*Lord God*", A title of submission to Jesus as Master.

So, Sarah is this one that Peter is speaking of that just has a beautiful quiet spirit in her, that she calls Abraham "Lord"

- ☞ **Used in this regard**, it is a term of "*Submission*".
- ☞ **Sarah is submitted** to the authority of Abraham.

But men, along with this great privilege of being the one with the authority, comes a great responsibility:

1 Peter 3

7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them (YOUR WIFE) **with understanding, giving honor** to the wife, as to the **weaker vessel**, and as being **heirs together** of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

"Dwell with your wife with Understanding", in the Greek Language, dwell with your wife with "**Gnosis**", which is "Knowledge". Live with your wife with Knowledge.

- ☞ **Gain an understanding** of how a woman works, in her heart and her mind.
- ☞ **I am convinced** that one of the biggest problem in marriage today, is that men don't know how women work.
- ☞ **Men speak to and treat women** like they do other men, which absolutely doesn't work.
- ☞ **Women think**, feel and live life completely different than a man does.

They are much more sensitive, interested in relationship with people, they are very nurturing, and much kinder and considerate than a man.

- ⊕ **That is what is meant here men by** “*dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel...*”

“*Weaker vessel*”, does not mean “**inferior**”, it means, more sensitive, gentler, more nurturing than you are.

- ⊕ **Men** are by their nature “**Harsh**” and sometimes “**Abrasive**”.
- ⊕ **Men must live in a world** that is very harsh towards them, we have to be tough to survive in this world.
- ⊕ **So, when we come home** after a day of being firm and tough:

“*Why is this house such a mess, why isn’t dinner ready yet, what is the matter with you, why can’t you organize your time more efficiently...Why are you crying, suck it up, be tough...*”

- ⊕ **That doesn’t work men**, and if you treat your wife that way, with firmness and harshness, they don’t respond well to that.
- ⊕ **Gentleness, a soft voice, a loving attitude**, making her feel like you care about her and her feelings, is what a woman needs.

“*Giving Honor to your wife...*”

- ⊕ **Honor** is great respect and admiration.
- ⊕ **When someone Greatly respects us** and we feel an admiration from them towards us, it greatly builds us up as a person.
- ⊕ **A woman needs** from her husband, Honor.
- ⊕ **She needs to feel** like she is the most important thing in your world, right under your love for Jesus, she is next.
- ⊕ **The kids aren’t first**, not your job, not your own personal needs or time with your buddies, her.
- ⊕ **When she is not held in this place of honor**, she will begin to feel bad about herself, she will lose self worth.
- ⊕ **But when she feels like she is really the treasure of your life**, and that you give her your time, your emotions, your attention and your love, she is built up, fortified, and becomes healthy and whole.

I can always tell how a man treats his wife by looking at the face of his wife

- ⊕ **If her face is bright and full of joy** when she is with him, it is because he has been loving her the right way.
- ⊕ **If her face is sad and drawn**, when she is with him, then it means he is probably very harsh and critical with her and has not really been loving her.

Now let’s get back to this term here “**Submit**” as it was used in verse 1

1 Peter 3

1 Wives, likewise, **be submissive** to your own husbands...

This term “Submissive” has been greatly misused by men... and greatly misunderstood in what it really means...

- ☞ **Any man that reads this verse**, and then comes to his wife and says “*Wife you must submit to my authority because the Lord said so*”... “*I am the man, you are my wife, now submit to me*...” **he has completely misused the intent of this verse.**

When we submit our lives to Jesus as Lord and Savior, is that how Jesus comes to us:

“Now I am the Lord, and you are pond scum, so you must submit yourselves to me...”

- ☞ **No, it is because of the kindness of the Lord**, that we want to willingly submit ourselves to Jesus and let Him have authority over us.
- ☞ **It is because Jesus is so kind and considerate** and gentle with us that we love to come and lay our lives before Him and say: “*I am yours Lord...*”

You know, there is a great difference between a cat and a dog. At first when Elsie and I got married, I didn’t like cats very much.

I learned though that unlike a Dog who will come to just about anyone, a cat is different. If you are harsh or loud or mean to them, there is no way they are ever going to come to you.

But, if you are quiet and gentle and speak to them in a very loving tone, they will come right up to you and just flip upside down with their paws up in the air...

Do you know what that means in cat language? “**I am totally submitted to you...**”

- ☞ Men, if you truly will love your wife, be kind and considerate of her.
- ☞ Speak to her with soft and gentle words.
- ☞ Consider her feelings.
- ☞ Take time to listen to her.
- ☞ Instead of lecturing her and trying to fix her when she makes a mistake or is hurting, just hold her and keep your big mouth shut....
- ☞ Be trustworthy and honest in all your dealings in the world...

Then she will want to submit to your leadership, she will want to submit to your authority because you use your position of leadership to serve, bless, love, and care for her.

- ☞ If you are some kind of a demanding, tyrant who rants and raves over what you want her to do.
- ☞ If you are mean and harsh and condemning to her.

- ⊖ If you continually hurt and offend her
- ⊖ If you are a liar, a cheat in your business

No person in their right mind would willingly submit to that kind of leader...

So, take your example of leadership men from Jesus style of leadership. He laid His life down for us, he never insisted on His own way, but everything He said and did was loving and to benefit us...

So men, if you want to have a wonderful wife, who loves and respects you, It won't cost you "an Arm and a Leg", it is going to cost you far more that that...It will cost you your heart.

- ⊖ **Your wife needs your heart**, all of it, your thoughts, your feelings, what you love, what you are afraid of, what moves you emotionally, share all of these with her and her only.

Men, a woman needs a man that is intimate and emotionally connected to her.

- ⊖ **She needs** you to share your heart with her.
- ⊖ **She needs to feel** like she is the most important part of your day and your whole life.
- ⊖ **The best way to fulfill this need she has**, is to just talk to her everyday and share what you are FEELING and find out what she is feeling

Feelings are an extremely important thing to a woman...

- ⊖ **Be interested in her day**, listen to all the struggles and concerns she has.
- ⊖ **Listen to her without the newspaper** in front of you, turn the TV off, have no other distractions going on when you give her your full attention.
- ⊖ **And really listen to her**, while she is talking to you, try to look deep into her eyes and **hear what her heart is really saying**.
- ⊖ **If she is very upset or emotional**, don't try to "Fix Her", try to give her a place to take her frustration or emotion without any fear of condemnation or correction.

Just listen to her, don't offer advice unless she asks you for it.

- ⊖ **She just needs you to give her your time** so that she can vent her frustration, anger, or emotion with you.
- ⊖ **After she has vented it all**, **don't say anything** except maybe, "Hey honey, its going to be OK, I'm here and I love you..."
- ⊖ **Then take her in your arms** an embrace her with a warm hug, just hold her awhile.

Most men, when a woman comes to him and begins to tell her all her problems, concerns anger or emotion, the man wants to fix her, because men are fixers, give us a problem, we will give you a solution.

- ☞ **Men, your wife doesn't need you to fix her**, she just needs you to listen to her and comfort her.

Single men, this is the way that you are to treat the woman that the Lord may give to you, she is to be a treasure and highly honored by you.

Single Ladies: This is the kind of man that you are to look for, should the Lord bring a man into your life...

So all of this is very practical and important wisdom for anyone that wants to have a happy and fulfilling marriage...

Ephesians 5:22-26

22 Wives, **submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.**

23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

25 **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church** and gave Himself for her,

26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

After doing marriage counseling for 20 years, I have come to the conclusion, that most of the problems in marriage stems from a lack of the husband to do what is spoke of here in Ephesians 5

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,"

- ☞ **Because the man is the one** that sets the tone for love in the marriage, **if he has not been loving his wife properly, then she will not be able to meet his needs.**
- ☞ **If The man continues to not love her properly**, she becomes more and more distant and detached from him.
- ☞ **Soon, they are both miserable** and cry out for help with their marriage, or one of them leaves and the marriage it is over.

Sorry men, that I have to lay all of this responsibility on you...but that is the way that Jesus Created marriage.

You want the Authority and for your wife to allow you to be the leader...along with that leadership comes the great responsibility of setting the tone, taking the initiative in the marriage for love...

The Lord created marriage, and made the rules for how marriage works and functions the most efficiently.

- ⊕ **The Lord made the man the Initiator**, and the woman the responder.
- ⊕ **If the man will first love his wife** and lay down his own life for her, then the wife will respond to him with the love, respect, and admiration that a man needs.
- ⊕ **If a man is harsh, critical**, makes his wife feel like she is not really that important to him because he doesn't listen to her, doesn't spend time with her, doesn't consider her feelings and emotions, makes decisions without her, **then she will not have any love, respect, admiration to give back to you.**

Men, A woman is a container that holds the love and other things that you need. If you are not filling her up with love, and all the things you need yourself, then she will not have anything to give back to you.

- ⊕ **I have heard men tell me**, *“Well, I am just waiting for her to start loving and respecting me first then I will start loving her”*
- ⊕ **When I counsel men on loving their wife** the way Jesus loves His church, they will say to me, *“Well what about her, doesn't she need to love me to that way...?”*

Yes men she does need to love you, but she will not be able to love you, until you have first poured into her everything she needs.

- ⊕ **Jesus created you** to be the first one to take the imitative and love her.
- ⊕ **Jesus created the woman to respond to your love**, and then meet your needs.
- ⊕ **If suddenly** you find that your wife is getting really cranky and not very loving or affectionate towards you, HELLO, wake up guys, it is most likely because you have not been pouring into her the love she needs.

And guys, the kind of love she needs is not a new vacuum cleaner...

- ⊕ **For most women**, it is not even flowers or candy that they want most.
- ⊕ **They just want you...**
- ⊕ **They want** your companionship.
- ⊕ **They want to spend time with you**, talk to you, hold your hand, look into your eyes.
- ⊕ **They need for you to tell them** that they are beautiful and how wonderful a person they are.
- ⊕ **They need to know** that they are a good mom and a good wife, and that you appreciate them and all they do.
- ⊕ **They need conversations** about all kinds of things.
- ⊕ **They need to feel close to you.**

There was a husband that was in marriage counseling with his wife one day and **the wife said:**

“I need him to tell me that he loves me more often...”

The husband responded; *“Honey I told you on the day that I married you that I loved you, if that ever changes, I will let you know...”*

NO Guys, she needs for you to tell her that you really love her EVERYDAY!

- ☞ **All of this with a promise men:** If you take this study and begin to do consistently all these things for your wife, then she will be so filled up inside and satisfied, that she will have an outflow from her life to you that will meet every need you have.
- ☞ **If you fail to do these things as the initiator,** then do not expect her to be able to meet any of your needs...

The last 2 verses of Ephesians 5, tell us men where and why we are trying to do all of these things:

Ephesians 5:27-28

25 **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church** and gave Himself for her,

26 that **He might sanctify and cleanse her** with the washing of water by the word,

27 that **He might present her to Himself a glorious church**, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

When you love your wife in the same way Jesus loves His church, by laying down your life for your wife, **thinking of her always first, considering her and respecting her**, then she will be what verses 26–28 say here in Ephesians 5

- ☞ She will be Sanctified and cleansed.
- ☞ A Glorious woman.
- ☞ Not a spot or wrinkle
- ☞ Just satisfied and fulfilled
- ☞ Because you loved her the way Jesus loves His church.

1 Peter 3

8 Finally, **all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;**

We have been called by Jesus to be of One mind.

- ☞ **This means to find agreement together**, not fighting and quarreling and divisions.
- ☞ **We are to have great compassion for each other**, looking at each other in our struggles with a heart of Sympathy and understanding not judgment or condemnation.
- ☞ **Love each other as family**, because we really are a family. If you have a problem loving other believers now, man you are going to be miserable in heaven, because there we will all be one big family.
- ☞ **Be tenderhearted towards each other:** To just be very gentle with each other, kind and very courteous with each other, because we have all been saved by Jesus.

9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

10 For

“He who would love life

And see good days,

Let him refrain his tongue from evil,

And his lips from speaking deceit.

11 Let him turn away from evil and do good;

Let him seek peace and pursue it.

12 For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,

And His ears are open to their prayers;

But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”