



SERIES:	60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	The Four-Sided Fortress of a Husband's Love
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Peter 3:7

MESSAGE SUMMARY

If life is to be *rock solid*, then family relationships—especially marriage—must be rock solid. No wonder Peter speaks to husbands after addressing wives. In his directive toward submission, he addresses citizens (and not government officials); he addresses servants (and not their masters). But when it comes to the home, he addresses *both wives and husbands*. Let's consider how a husband's love can make a woman feel firmly secure.

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

A. Ancient fortresses

1. Typically had four sides to keep residents safe
2. Same with marriage; four applicable principles from I Peter 3:7 form a fortress to protect those within a marriage

B. Love doesn't appear in this text, but the verse is a description of how a husband's love ought to operate

C. All humans on earth are incompatible with all other humans on earth; we're all sinners

1. You can either tear up the picture of the perfect partner you have in your mind and accept your actual partner, or tear up the partner and accept the picture
2. "In any marriage more than a week old, there are grounds for divorce. The trick is to find, and continue to find, grounds for marriage"—Robert Anderson

D. I Peter 3:1-7 for context

II. Submission is Mutual ("*Husbands, likewise...*")

A. Peter's theme of submitting to every ordinance of man (see I Peter 2:12-13)

B. *Likewise*—husbands don't submit in the same way wives submit, but there is a mutual level of submission

C. Ephesians 5:22

1. Verse 21 is actually the beginning of Paul's thoughts on husbands and wives
2. Verse 22 literally says, "Wives to your own husbands..."
3. *Submit* is implied from verse 21 and continues to be implied in verse 25, 6:1, and 6:5 (for wives, husbands, children, and servants)

D. How do husbands submit?

1. Ephesians 5:25
2. There is no greater act of submission than the willingness to die for another person
3. Jesus submitted to the will of the Father and to the need of mankind by dying on the cross

4. Does not mean the husband stops being the leader
 - E. Yield sign on both sides of a bridge
 1. To avoid a head-on collision, both drivers need to yield
 2. "When grace changes the heart, submission out of fear changes to submission out of love"—William Hendriksen
- III. Consideration is Essential ("*dwell with them with understanding*")
- A. Understand what God's purpose for marriage is and what you and your wife's roles are
 - B. Above all, understand *her*
 1. Husbands should be lifelong students of their wives
 2. You have to know her well if you're going to love her well
 - C. Genesis 2:18
 1. *Comparable* = suitable; a counterpart
 2. Hebrew: "I am going to make a helper *like-opposite* him"; suggests polarity
 - D. Book on brain physiology states that men are different from women in aptitude, skill, behavior, communication, physically, etc.
- IV. Cooperation is Practical
- A. A Husband Should Promote Honor ("*giving honor to the wife*")
 1. (*To honor* = to assign/assess value to a person; priceless, precious
 2. A husband should treat his wife with respect, kindness, courtesy, and chivalry
 3. "After interviewing hundreds of wives and daughters, there is one consistent plea that is commonly asked by them of all of their fathers and their husbands: please be comforting instead of lecturing and criticizing"—Gary Smalley
 - B. A Husband Should Provide Strength ("*as to the weaker vessel*")
 1. *Weaker vessel*—does not mean a wife is weaker intellectually, emotionally, or spiritually
 2. On a physiological, scientific level, women are *generally* weaker than men
 3. A man should know his wife so well that he can offer strength for her areas of weakness
 4. Treat your wife like fine china, not like paper plates; like silverware, not plastic ware
 - C. A Husband Should Pledge Companionship ("*heirs together*")
 1. Could mean physical life or spiritual, everlasting life
 2. Your wife's soul is as precious to God as your soul; treat her as a daughter of the living God
 3. "Woman was not taken from man's head to be above him; she was not taken from his feet to be walked on by him; but she was taken from his side to be close to him, from under his arm to be protected by him, from near to his heart to be loved by him"—paraphrased from Matthew Henry
 4. Your wife doesn't want more things, she wants more of you
- V. Division is Unprofitable ("*that your prayers be not hindered*")
- A. *Hinder* = to cut in, to interrupt
 1. Military term for blowing up a road so that an enemy can't advance toward you on that road
 2. Satan's desire is to cut in between a husband and God
 3. Luke 22:31—true of every husband
 4. The sin of unforgiveness can hinder your prayers from being answered
 - a. Matthew 6:14-15

- b. Never go to sleep at night without forgiving your spouse
 - B. Evasion of husbandly duty will bring interruption to heavenly bounty
- VI. Closing
 - 1. Tear up that picture that you have in your mind of the perfect partner and accept the imperfect partner
 - 2. You're married to an imperfect person—and so is your spouse

Figures Referenced: Robert Anderson, William Hendriksen, Matthew Henry, Gary Smalley

Cross references: Genesis 2:18, Matthew 6:14-15, Luke 22:31, Ephesians 5:21-22, Ephesians 5:25; Ephesians 6:1, Ephesians 6:5, 1 Peter 2:12-13, 1 Peter 3:1-7

Topic: Marriage

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