

## Friday

Read Revelation 2:1–5. What three suggestions does verse 5 give on how to fall in love again?

If you're married, list three practical ways you can apply this to marriage:

Of course, this passage applies directly to your relationship with God. How can you apply these same three suggestions in practical ways to improve that relationship?

*Ask God to help you love Him — and others — with His kind of love. Ask Him to open your eyes to ways you can show Christ's love to others.*

## Saturday

*Finish any devotions you may have missed; polish the memory verse. Please pray for the services this weekend, and for the church to continue to grow and to change lives. Thanks!*

*Some devotion questions adapted from Before You Say I Do by Norm Wright.*



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# LIVING HOPE

PART 5

## ...for My Relationships

JULY 14 & 15, 2012 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

### Three priceless gifts wives can give their husbands:

#### 1. The gift of \_\_\_\_\_

Wives, **in the same way** be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

*1 Peter 3:1–2 NIV*

#### **The Christian virtue of submission: "I am second"**

This passage is part of a larger discussion on submission

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority... *1 Peter 2:13*

Show proper respect to everyone... *1 Peter 2:17*

Servants, to your masters... *1 Peter 2:18*

Wives, in the same way... *1 Peter 3:1*

Husbands, in the same way... *1 Peter 3:7*

Finally, all of you... *1 Peter 3:8*

For more on the biblical view of women, see Genesis 1:27; Judges 4; Proverbs 31; Matthew 19:4-6; Galatians 3:28; 1 Corinthians 7:4; Romans 16.

The same goes for you wives: Be good wives to your husbands, responsive to their needs. There are husbands who, indifferent to any words about God, will be captivated by your life of inner beauty. *1 Peter 3:1–2 MSG*

#### 2. The gift of \_\_\_\_\_

Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. *1 Peter 3:3–5a NIV*

#### 3. The gift of \_\_\_\_\_

You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

*1 Peter 3:6b NIV*

You are her true daughters... **unanxious and unintimidated**... *1 Peter 3:6a MSG*

## Three priceless gifts husbands can give their wives

In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered. *1 Peter 3:7 NLT*

In a similar way, you husbands must live with your wives in an understanding manner, as with a most delicate partner. Honor them as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing may interfere with your prayers. *1 Peter 3:7 ISV*

### 1. The gift of \_\_\_\_\_

You husbands, likewise, live with your wives... *1 Peter 3:7a*

*Tip: Check out this year's TLC Family Camp on Labor Day Weekend*

### 2. The gift of \_\_\_\_\_

...in an understanding way... *1 Peter 3:7b ISV*

### 3. The gift of \_\_\_\_\_

...treat her with respect as a weaker vessel. Grant her **honor** as a **fellow heir** of the grace of life so that your prayers will not be hindered. *1 Peter 3:7c NIV*

...in the new life of God's grace, you're equals. Treat your wives, then, as equals so your prayers don't run aground. *1 Peter 3:7 MSG*

## Bottom line:

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. *1 Peter 3:8 NIV*

**In a "me first" world, have a "\_\_\_\_\_ " attitude**

*For further reading, see also Rodney Stark's The Rise of Christianity for a comparison of early Christian views of women with other Greco-Roman era views, and Dr. Emerson Eggerichs' Love and Respect for more on the emotional needs of men and women*

## Daily Meditations

### Monday

Read 1 Peter 3:1–5. Of course Peter lived in a different culture and society than our own, and this can make it difficult to understand how we can apply his word "submission" to our lives today. Note that, in the broader context (which starts in 1 Peter 2), the point is that submission (as in, respect, honor, and obedience) is an attitude all Christians should show in all of their relationships. Peter is saying, even if your king or master or husband is not a believer, show total respect.

Submission is a Christian value. It means to give others preeminence, honor, authority, respect. It means I am not number one. I am second. This is definitely counter-cultural! What would you say is the cross-cultural principle in these verses that applies to all Christians?

How can you specifically apply this verse this week?

Also note that in context Peter is instructing these Christians on how to behave when people are hostile to their faith. He's essentially saying, if you're married to an unbeliever, don't try to browbeat your spouse into believing. Let them be won over by your gentle spirit. Why is this important?

*Thank God today that the Bible deals with real life issues and relationships. Ask Him to help you submit to others in all your relationships in a godly way.*

### Tuesday

Read 1 Peter 3:7–8. What are Peter's instructions to husbands? How is submission part of his role and function? What insight does Ephesians 5:1 contribute?

*Thank God today for His love for you. Ask Him to help you get motivated by His love to love others.*

### Wednesday

Read Genesis 2:18–25, and Ephesians 5:22–32. According to these verses, who originated the marriage relationship?

Why was it originated?

What do the words "they shall be one flesh" mean?

List three things you could do, if you're married, to promote the "oneness" characteristic of marriage.

*Thank God today for establishing marriage. Ask God to help you improve all your relationships.*

### Thursday

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–7. How would these traits, manifested in a person, give him or her a greater chance of success in marriage?

Which of these traits seem to be difficult for you?

Which come easier for you?

*Ask God today to help you live a life characterized by the kind of love 1 Corinthians 13 describes.*



Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. *1 Peter 3:8 NIV*