

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by

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That Your Prayers be not Hindered

(I Peter 3:7)

“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them (wives) according to knowledge, giving honour unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs TOGETHER of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered” (I Peter 3:7).

Dear brethren, in my years of ministry, I have not heard many (if any) messages emphasizing the aforementioned verse. This admonition is of a serious manner to we which have been given a hope of sins forgiven and life eternal. Oh! to “love our wives as Christ loves his beloved church bride” is an awesome command which demands a lifetime of abundant grace to even attempt such an unachievable task. This command sets the precious premise that God has toward the wife who has been given to each of Gods children. What a glorious concept to think of walking through this life’s journey hand in hand with our beloved spouse in sweet unison in the common hope of Jesus Christ, yet we find our relationships strained by societies influence.

*We find ourselves in a society where “individualism” has overcome our families on the most part. Often **honour** is not shown or expressed to the dear wife in our relationships, and her femininity is not respected as the **weaker vessel**, but often merely recognized as an **equal partner**. Our Lord has made it quite clear that husbands are to give **honour** to their wife in humility and loving kindness as unto her. It does not take a Psychologist to see that the female gender is made by Gods divine purpose to be a **more** sensitive and sentimental creature towards lifes issues (in most cases). Their motherly love and sentimentality for her dear children far surpasses that of the male partner, as God has designed her to conceive and bare a child and/or children which she nourishes through her physical body over the nine-month pregnancy period. Her precious fetus hears its mother’s voice as it reverbs through her body, as it matures in the womb. There is a bond between the mother and a child of which (I am persuaded) a father knows nothing; I ask you, who does a child most likely gravitate toward when in trouble or in need? The Mother or the Father? How many soldiers when faced with death on every side calls out for their Father in desperation?*

How often have you ever heard a dear Mother express that a Son convicted of murderer is a “**killer and a bad boy**”? Most will always say, “My son is really a good boy,” and often refuse that this son could do such tragic event.

The dear mother is often the least path of resistance that a child will gravitate towards when seeking permission to be part of questionable situation, whereas a Father often can see the pitfalls of certain situations that often can result of certain circumstances. Usually the husband is the stronger disciplinarian in a marriage/family. This is of divine design as God has given the man the position of **headship** over the wife and his children. Yet, not to be a **tyrant** and **dictator** that rules without love, compassion and gentleness.

Oh! dear brethren, to love our wives as Christ loves his beloved bride. What kind of love is this? It is a love that no man can know except he be revealed it by the Spirit of Christ. This love is a **sacrificial love**, that should cause the husband to do **whatever it takes** to care for his beloved wife, to provide for her the needs in benevolent way. To love her **unconditionally**, this is impossible (IMHO) apart from divine grace. We often in time, become irritated by things which we are aggravated by as we learn the man and his wife do not have the same priorities in their routines. Some put the toothpaste cap on the tube after using, and others don't bother; some place their dirty clothes in a designated place, while others leave them lay where they take them off; some might drink out of the water bottle from the refrigerator, while others would not think of doing such thing. Some can drive a vehicle with six inches of McDonald's wrappers and cups on the floor, while the spouse can't stand such a mess. We are ALL different, and these differences don't come out in the dating process! Do they? (smiling). But oh, after a couple years of marriage you have come to learn **many** things that you were not aware prior to your committed union.

Yet, beloved of God, we are admonished to love one another **unconditionally** and be tolerant and forgiving one towards another. But we often find ourselves falling far short of Gods ideal don't we? Oh! for grace how great a debtor we as sinners have been made to be.

Last, Often time erodes harmonious communication. As we live day-by-day and year-by-year together as husband and wife, many things enter into our lives that often hinder our intense love and devotion one to another. Financial issues, careers, children's demands, etc.; you know what they are. The attraction and romance that first caught our eyes often loses its luster and excitement over time. Dear brethren, has the glimmer and passion that was evident when you **first** loved your dear wife eroded away? Have you fallen away from that initial willingness to **do anything sacrificially for your wife's sake**? I say this primarily to you husbands because this is to whom the initial text is addressing.

Are your prayers being hindered? Possibly they are because you are not rendering due honour unto your God given spouse. This is not a matter which is to be

taken lightly, this is a serious situation which can cause us to be chastened by God's divine displeasure. How easy over time it is to take our dear spouses for granted. You brethren which minister among Gods heritage, do you and your wife spend time praying together beseeching God to knit your love and devotion to one another closer and closer? Does she honour you as her God given **Head**? Does she reverence you as she is admonished by scripture?

I conclude with an illustration. I was informed of a young family with children which the husband was such a tyrant over his wife that he would designate certain duties she was directed to do. The children were home-schooled, for which she was totally responsible, to see that all studies were being accomplished, clean the house, wash the clothes, cook three meals a day, do the grocery shopping, along with other motherly and household duties, while HE merely went out to work as the sole "breadwinner," which he felt was his primary and only duty. This dear wife had become a **slave** in her own household! Now, the husband wonders why his marriage is falling apart, and the wife's love she once had for her husband was eroding away. This is a professing Christian couple in which the husband uses the scriptures as a "**duty whipping post**" to lord over his wife and children. "**He wonders why his prayers are HINDERED and not answered?**"

Dear brethren, **benevolent and sacrificial love** is not laborious, but joyful when done by the enabling grace of our beloved Saviour. This dear husband needed to take up the slack where the wife could not maintain the burdensome obligations he laid upon her. This dear brethren is "**giving honour to the weaker vessel**" that your prayers be not hindered.

May our God bless us with an abundance of loving mercies and sovereign grace to love our wives even as ourselves and give ourselves for them even as Christ did by example to his Church Bride. Lord, **help us, lest we fail!**

By Christ's merits I remain in hope,
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