

1 Peter 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Analysis

Peter addresses Christian husbands. "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge" (hoi andres homoiōs synoikountes kata gnōsin)—live with wives according to understanding, wisdom, insight. The description of wife: "giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel" (hōs asthenesterō skeuei tō gynaikeiō aponemontes timēn). "Weaker vessel" likely refers to physical strength, not moral or spiritual inferiority. "Giving honour" requires special consideration, protection, respect. The theological basis: "as being heirs together of the grace of life" (hōs kai synklēronomoi charitos zōēs)—wives are equal co-heirs with husbands of eternal life. The consequence: "that your prayers be not hindered" (eis to mē enk optesthai tas proseuchas hymōn)—mistreating wives damages prayer life, indicating broken relationship with God.

Historical Context

In patriarchal Roman culture, wives often received little respect. Peter demands husbands honor wives as equal spiritual heirs despite physical differences. This was radically counter-cultural. The 'weaker vessel' terminology shouldn't suggest inferiority but physical differences requiring considerate treatment. Peter's warning that mistreating wives hinders prayers shows God cares how husbands treat wives—domestic conduct affects spiritual life. Early church elevated women's

dignity in cultures that often devalued them. This teaching laid groundwork for Christian egalitarianism (spiritual equality) while maintaining complementarian roles.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does understanding your wife as equal 'co-heir of grace' despite physical differences affect how you treat her?
2. Why does mistreating your spouse 'hinder prayers,' and what does this reveal about relationship between human and divine relationships?

Interlinear Text

Οἱ	ἄνδρες	ὁμοίως	συνοικοῦντες	κατὰ	γνώσιν			
G3588	ye husbands	Likewise	dwelt with	them according to	knowledge			
	G435	G3668	G4924	G2596	G1108			
ὥς	ἀσθενεστέρω	σκεύει	τῷ	γυναικείῳ	ἀπονέμοντες			
as	unto the weaker	vessel	G3588	unto the wife	giving			
G5613	G772	G4632		G1134	G632			
τιμήν	ὥς	καὶ	συγκληρονόμοι	χάριτος	ζωῆς	εἰς	τὸ	μὴ
honour	as	and	being heirs together	of the grace	of life	that	G3588	not
G5092	G5613	G2532	G4789	G5485	G2222	G1519		G3361
ἐκκόπτεσθαι	τάς	προσευχὰς	ὑμῶν					
be	G3588	prayers	your					
G1581		G4335	G5216					

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 3:19 (Parallel theme): Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

Ephesians 5:33 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

1 Corinthians 7:3 (Parallel theme): Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

Matthew 18:19 (Parallel theme): Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

1 Thessalonians 4:4 (Parallel theme): That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;