

"GIVE HONOR UNTO THE WIFE"

By Donald Townsley

Peter said, *"Ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."* (I Pet. 3:7) The word "honor" in this text is from a Greek word that is translated "precious" in I Peter 2:7. Husbands are to look upon their wives as "precious" and are to give them honor they deserve. The idea of being "precious" is that of valuing. A man's wife is priceless - she is to be to him of great value. The writer of Proverbs said a man who finds a virtuous woman has found one whose *"price is far above rubies"* (Proverbs 31:10).

Husbands, how do you treat your valuable wife? Do you criticize her more than you compliment her? Do you give her the impression that her faults are greater than her points of value? Let us stir up your pure minds about her great value:

- Think about her jobs around the house - cooking, cleaning, bed-making, grocery-buying, bill-paying, washing and ironing, just to name a few.
- She bears the children, having carried them nine months, but all the while she does all her other jobs on top of her discomfort during this time.
- She does more than her part (most of the time) in raising the children until they gone from home.
- She *"ravishes you always with her love"* (Prov. 5:19) - fulfilling your deep physical and emotional needs. She defrauds you not (I Cor. 7:5). To you she is tender, gentle and attentive, and you are happy and satisfied with delight in her love.
- She is your companion (Gen. 2:18). You tell her things you would tell no one else on this earth. She shares your dreams. She is there to build you up when you are down. In your deep sorrow she is your comfort. When times are good and you are tempted to be lifted up with pride, she keeps your feet on the ground. When you approach the Father in prayer your petition to His is hers also (Matt. 18:19; I Pet. 3:7). With her you have joy, friendship and good times that cannot be known with any other person on this earth. When you sin against her, she forgives you like a little child. When you are separated from her there is great loneliness in your heart that is hard to bear. She knows you so well that she can tell (most of the time) what you are thinking about before you tell her. You can depend on her when all others fail you.
- The spiritual values she adds to your life are great. She is interested in doing what God would have her to do, and in being what God would have her to be. To you she is an example (I Peter 3: 2 - 5). She encourages you in doing the will of God in all things.

Husbands, do you appreciate the real value of your wife? I doubt if there is a man reading this article who makes enough money to pay for the services his wife renders in their home - if he had to hire them done. Any man who doubts this statement needs to get him a pencil and paper and figure his wife's labors at the same prices that they are paid in the "market place" for every job she does! And, husbands, don't forget that this woman not only renders to you these valuable services such

as cooking, housekeeping, baby-sitting, budget managing, etc., but much more than this, she is your companion, your lover, and a great source of spiritual strength. In the words of Paul, "*Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.*" (Col. 3:19). Let us nourish and cherish our wives, understanding how precious they are!

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