

## **Positive Leadership in the Home – 1 Peter 3:7**

### **Introduction**

#### **Roles in Life**

In all aspects of life there are reporting structures and roles that we play within them. In corporations there are roles from CEO's and vice presidents to managers to clerks to laborers on the production floor. In government there are roles from prime ministers and presidents to governors, to mayors, and to citizens. The same is true for the military, for schools, for sport teams, for symphony orchestras, for retail stores, and the list goes on and on. Everywhere you look, there are reporting structures and multiple roles involved in each. Many of us here operate and fit within one or more.

What is common among these structures is they require roles which lead and those which follow. More often than not, all roles require both. There is always an element of leading and one of following. This is just the way it is. But this is often where conflicts develop in this fallen world. If you lend even a casual ear to this world, you can hear the chorus saying, "I want to be the boss" or "I want to be in charge – I can do it better."

But the Lord has ordained such structures – it is just how things work. For example, His gracious hand provides the government and ruling authorities to keep peace and order and to ensure things get done for the benefit of people. Most importantly, He provides these restraining institutions to provide an environment so that the gospel can be proclaimed and received. So remember to thank the Lord for government....yes, even the bad ones. It is often the best this sin-wracked world can offer and could certainly be worse.

#### **God Ordained Roles for Marriage**

It is no different in the church. The Lord raises up pastors, teachers, elders, deacons, Sunday school teachers, office staff etc to shepherd and lead His church. And in 1 Cor 11:3, He gives the most fundamental organization structure {a superior one to all others – involves loving leadership and submission} which connects the ultimate authority with mankind. Please turn with me there.

It reads.....*"But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. (1 Cor. 11:3)*. Paul writes this in the midst of correcting practical error in the Corinthian church - namely a lack of submission by married women expressed in how they observed a cultural practice of the day. However, there are a couple of principles in this text to note. Paul gives the order God has designed between a husband and a wife and how they relate to Christ and the Father.

Note that the husband submits to Christ while the wife submits to the husband and then Christ submits to the Father. The functions of leading and submitting are displayed across the links of this relationship structure. Leading and submitting must occur. If no leading occurs, no one goes

anywhere and likewise, if no one submits nothing gets done. If Christ does not submit to the Father, then our salvation is not possible.

Now this does not imply inferiority of woman to man or Christ to God the Father. It is not teaching there is a difference in relative value between a husband and wife – the two have equality in being. There is no difference in personal worth, abilities, intellect, or spirituality. Women can be superior to men in these areas but are given a divine function to fulfill. Christ, as our example, is in no way inferior to the Father but lovingly and humbly submits to the Father and His purposes.

Nor can the husband do without the wife or the wife without the husband. Paul goes on in verses 11-12, “*Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman.*” *1 Cor. 11:11-12*. There is no independence but rather interdependence between men and women.

This evening we continue this month’s series on biblical leadership in the home. So far we have been given the biblical picture of a woman’s role from Proverbs 31, the role of the man as a biblical leader, and how family leadership was modeled by God and then restored in Christ after the fall. And now we continue by taking a look at what leadership should look like in the home – positive leadership. Before we begin though, let’s pray and ask the Lord to help us....

So God’s Word makes it clear that husbands and wives are equal before God but given specific functions in their marriage relationships. Well, that is good – let’s just go look at the large sections of the bible which talk just about marriage. But wait a minute...there are not any vast sections. In fact, Scripture devotes minimal specific discussion on the marriage relationship – why? Because as we heard this morning, it is first a brother-sister relationship and not what the world defines it as; finding total fulfillment in one another, fixing/solving each other’s gaps, E-Harmony.com, etc. The Lord is not preparing two people for perfect marriage when in heaven. The Lord says there will not be any marriage in heaven. Rather, it is two people working out their salvation together, living this life in the light of the Gospel, getting to know and experience Christ more and more, and preparing for life beyond this one with Him. And it is done in a unique way, a way that best glorifies and represents the Godhead here on earth.

This is done through a specific design the Lord has provided. It is exclusive relationship in this life – one obviously not shared with other brothers and sisters. The Lord provides marriage for companionship, to complement one another, to be a witness, to leave a legacy, to be a defense, etc. Yet remember that biblical marriage begins with a brother-sister orientation as its starting point.

### **Positive Leadership in the Home**

So if the role of the husband in marriage is to lead then what does godly and positive leadership in the home look like? What are the principles for a husband (the brother) to fulfill his role and lead his wife (his sister) in the home? Although the Bible gives us minimal specifics, there are several passages we could turn to better understand. However, we are going to return to 1 Peter.

### **In Its Biblical Context (1 Peter 2:12, 18-3:7)**

Please turn with me to 1 Peter. . . . After reminding us of the great salvation that we have been given, of the call for us to be holy, and for us to grow up in our salvation, Peter tells us in 2:12, *“Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.”* Peter then describes what abstaining from the passions of the flesh and keeping our conduct honorable among the Gentiles looks like in three common spheres of life. In each as well as in all areas of life, we are to be subjected or to submit. The first is as citizens in 2:13-17 – we are to be subject to all human institutions; to the emperor, to the governor, etc. We are to *“Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.* Note “honor everyone and love the brotherhood”. In our orientation and approach to people, God’s Word has cast a large net or rather a complete one with “everyone and the brotherhood”.

In the second sphere, Peter writes of how we as servants are to be subject to our masters. Now the servant-master relationship is not the experience of our age but one of an employer-employee is familiar. Once again, we are to subject ourselves to our employers with all respect regardless of who they are and how they treat us. In America we have far more freedom to move down the road if we do not like how we are treated. The mistreatment we may experience is nothing like the slave of first century would have endured. This subjection which often leads to suffering unjustly has a purpose. Peter explains in verse 21, *“For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.”* The steps and work of Christ were intentional since they made a way for many to be saved from sin and to be born again to new life. Such are the steps we take in Christ – ones with the purpose of drawing others to Him through our patient good works done while suffering.

Peter then moves us to the third sphere in 3:1-7; marriage. And specifically Christian wives who are to take the same mindset of Christ towards their husbands (some who are not even believers) and be subject to them. They are to allow the Lord to use their holy conduct as a means to win their unbelieving husbands to Christ. Ladies – God loves your gentle and quiet spirit. Continue to cultivate it. He uses this for the sake of your unbelieving husband or if you have a believing husband, to encourage and when needed to rebuke him.

### **In Its Understanding**

And then Peter brings us to husbands in 3:7. It is only one verse specifically directed at husbands but it does not mean it is any less important. It is a central text for showing us how positive leadership in the home ought to look. It reads:

*“Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.* Peter begins with “Likewise” which tells us that the principle and example of Christ in the preceding verses back to 2:18 involving servants and wives apply to husbands as well. Yes, men are to be subjected to others also, namely to their wives. But they are to be lovingly subjected in a different way – a way that takes the initiative and takes the lead, often at the expense of his desires and wishes.

First of all, husbands are to live with their wives. *“To live”* means “to dwell” with them. And it is easy to pass right by this phrase. Well, you might say, “is that not a given?” We are married are we not? Of course, I live with my wife. But the answer is “yes” we do need to talk about this. The verse commands us to not only live at the same address but also to spend time there. Men, are you home enough? Or are you overcommitted in your work and/or have time consuming hobbies which take you away from home too much? So we need to be home.

Now the role of a husband is to be the primary provider of all physical and material needs. It does not always work out that way but it is the role of the husband. Fulfilling this role can and does require us to leave the home. But the command “to live” also requires that we as husbands are engaged in our home when we are at home. It is easy to come home after working all day and simply collapse in a heap. And we might justify this in our minds – “I am tired and when I come home I just want to check out, besides, I deserve a break.” My wife can handle the household, the kids, etc. But the Scriptures do not allow this. We as husbands are to be fully engaged in our homes and our marriages. We need to know what is going on so that we can lead our homes effectively.

Peter then goes on to tell us how we are to live with our wives. We are to do so in an understanding way. “Understanding” is to live and lead our wives and families according to knowledge. And this is not easy for husbands. We are pretty simple, objective and results driven, just give us the facts, right? We are by nature blunt, not always concerned about feelings, emotions, sensitivity...by the way, there is a hill to climb, a dragon to slay, and a job to do! Yes, at the core of this, that is how men are made but God’s Word demands more. We are to live with our wives in an understanding way – and this involves getting into the details and details take time.

As we live with our wives (and really live!), we are to get to know them and we first do so by realizing they are different than we are – and that is a good thing. If we were alike, why would we need one another?

Another key to knowing them is by spending time with them – observing them - to get to know what they like, what they do not like, their strengths, their weaknesses, what makes them happy and what does not, to get to know when they are tired, when they are upset, when they need a break, and to know what they need help with, what they do not need help with, and on and on...

We must talk with our wives. We consult them and ask their opinion (and there is much to learn and much wisdom to gain from her). But most of all, we listen and not just with our ears but with our hearts. Hear what she is saying through her feelings and emotions. There is a lot there if we just take the time to do so. And resist the urge to speak too quickly – listen and when you are done listen some more. And when things are difficult, there is one thing we have to learn concerning our wives; look beyond her words and even the emotion in them and to hear what she is really saying. We have to recognize we are not being attacked and resist the urge to fight back but to simply listen. And we do not always have to provide a solution – often times we just need to listen and that is enough.

And you need to learn how to have a disagreement. We may chuckle, but fights happen, right? Put your grievance and your desire aside to lead the two of you through a “good fight”. One that sticks to the issues, is constructive, sticks to the facts and the issues, and does not attack. Remember not to pull out the list (and by the way, get rid of the list altogether). Create an atmosphere where disagreements can happen but you still have unity. This comforts our wives and prevents issues from being stuffed rather than brought out into the open.

Forgiveness and restoration is where we need to lead as well. Regardless of what side you find yourself on (needing forgiveness or needing to forgive), initiate the process men. Restore your relationship in all areas and to make peace. Do not let issues or disputes slide. They will just arise again and again until they are resolved. Rather lead your wife through the restoration process – use those biblical words, “Will you forgive me?” or “I forgive you”. Avoid the temptation to only apologize or blame shift. And after forgiving one another, make sure you talk it through. Ask questions on “how did we get here?” and “how can we avoid in the future?” and “how can we pray for one another better in this area?”

Forgiveness and restoration is a huge opportunity for husbands to show positive leadership in the home. There are many couples (young and old) who do not practice – men who do not lead their wives here and it only stores up resentment and sow seeds for even greater disputes. And I am talking here about people who would never think of divorce – couples who stay together no matter what yet the quality of their marriage falls far short of what the Lord requires. After a period of time, they are not on the same page and so much time (perhaps years) has passed that they are not even sure where they got off track.

After getting to know our wives, we can then lead and order our marriages and families accordingly. There is no single specific how-to book here that works for all husbands. No, only the command is to live with our wives in an understanding way. It is up to the husband to take the initiative and invest the time to observe and learn about the wife given to him. The Lord is in effect saying, “take the time to understand her and then lead, love, and protect her accordingly. And do not consider it a one time project – she changes over time (and so do we). This is a lifelong process - keep learning!

One example of where her needs change over time is the role each of us plays in correcting and disciplining our children. The husband must always take the lead but must understand as the kids grow the father takes on an increasingly greater role. There is a point where Dad becomes the one to discipline and correct. Mom’s voice only goes so far with teenagers, right? So we husbands need to adapt and realize her needs are changing. Another example is when health issues strike (and they will). Men, we may need to do more around the house and handle more of the load in general than we were previously accustomed to. Constantly reassess and see what your wife really needs and make loving provision.

And over time we need to remember what we have learned about our wife since there may be no opportunity to act upon it in the present. For example, our wife might have a dream or desire such as taking or teaching a class, finishing her degree or certificate, starting a small business, or serving in a particular ministry. But then the circumstances of life place a hold on it. We have children, there is a serious illness in the family, or job demands increase causing one of us to work

extended hours. It does not mean the dream or desire goes away in her, so if possible we need to make provision at some point to make it happen. Or it may mean sacrificing our time, comfort, or convenience in the present. We may need to do more with caring for the kids, doing the chores around the house, etc.

And speaking of children, this is a primary opportunity to live with your wife in an understanding way. Do we realize how much of a job this really is to care for babies and small children day in and day out? There may be no more difficult job. It can contain frustration, stress, exhaustion, and sheer boredom. One mistake we husbands make is to think that our time away from home in the workplace is far more difficult than that of our wives in staying home and caring for the kids. Perhaps the only bigger mistake is we actually verbalize it! We need to put ourselves in their shoes and make some plans to give her a break; let her go shopping, call a friend, take a class, take her on a date (remember how we use to do this!). And we need to remember to give her some good adult conversation. After talking to pre-school kids all day, she is probably going a little crazy.

You might say, “how do I know when she needs a break?” Well, it is not too hard – she will let you know. One tipoff I received from Stace when the kids were little was her use of possessive pronouns. She might call me at work towards the end of a bad day and tell me what my children had done! For the moment, I was suddenly a single parent! So depending on how the day went, her use of possessive pronouns would change.

The other problem when we see our wife struggling in this area is to think our wives are not spiritual enough. We put on our super spiritual “hat” and think or say something like this, “Well dear, if you only trusted the Lord more or prayed more or looked at this as a trial where you are being tested, you would be having a much better day.....when are you going to learn these lessons??” So much for living with your wife in an understanding way! At best, this only builds frustration and/or resentment in our wives. Her response, and understandably so, might go like this, “Yes, I certainly need to be more spiritual to put up with you.” But rather come alongside and help her in practical ways where able. If you are unable to actually help then just listen. Once the situation passes and quiets down, you can minister and if need be, help her how to handle better in the future. Better yet, confess to her how you could have handled the situation better!

### **In Its Expression of Honor**

We are also to honor our wives. The text reads on... *“showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel.”* Men, we are to show honor to our wives. The sense of the word “showing” is to hold in reserve for them particular honor - a particular respect, esteem, and praise mingled with love. The weaker vessel or “weaker instrument” does not refer to intellectual ability or degree of morality but refers primarily to physical strength. With a few exceptions aside, men are physically stronger than women. The Lord has simply made us to be that way. It is not as if He wanted to frustrate women – it is just the plan. In fact, the plan gives yet another opportunity for marriages to glorify Him. It is an opportunity to portray Christ giving himself up for the church by the husband doing the same for his wife. We are to view our wives as precious, like a delicate and fragile vase.

How does this look? Well, it is rather simple. Men, do you open doors for your wives; car doors, house doors, office doors, church doors?...do you lift and carry the heavy things?.....move the big

items; furniture.....do the dirty and messy jobs? And how about starting and warming the car on cold winter days? We are made to do these things and we need to do them. Do you remember those things? We used to consider it a top priority before we married or when newly married. Some aspects of our memory seem to fade much faster over time! And most importantly, are we setting aside our activity of the moment to help? Can we walk away from the football game, the nap, the “important” project of the moment, the hobby, or our work to do so? If you want to teach your sons a valuable lesson, teach them how to do this first for their moms. Their future wives will thank you for it. Make certain that all children of the family honor mom. It is important and what the Lord requires.

Another key aspect of our wives being the weaker vessel is what the Lord requires of them back in verses 1-6. We need to understand this - they are placed in subjection to their husbands and this is a vulnerable place to be. Why? Because of whom we as husbands can be. We fail in leading our wives. But regardless, our wives are commanded back in 3:1-6 to patiently trust the Lord and to wait upon Him when suffering wrongly. They are also commanded to emphasize their inner beauty of the heart which runs counter to what the culture around them values. We need to help our wives to keep the aging process in perspective – keep a focus upon our eternal destination. And it helps to keep our hearts right in this area by observing our own aging process!

Now there is another aspect to our wives being the weaker vessel. Our wives are gifted spiritually and are often further along than men. Concerning feelings and emotions, they pick up on things we men do not see. With these strengths, however, they can be vulnerable. Women see needs that break their hearts and want to meet them especially with their children, with friends, etc. Husbands need to lookout for them making sure they do not over commit or become manipulated. In fact, our children can be the biggest area of application. Our children must be kept in perspective and not become the center of all our time and attention. Remember that your children cannot come between us and our wives. The husband-wife relationship must be primary. The challenge to do so is greater at the different stages of life such as for example, when the kids are little.

### **In Its Equality before God**

Husbands, living with our wives in an understanding way and showing them honor is important *since they are “heirs with you of the grace of life”* as verse 7 goes on to say. As pointed out earlier, women are not inferior to men. Both are equal in God’s eyes. In the case where both husband and wife are believers, they are fellow inheritors of eternal life. As we husbands take the lead and show honor, understanding, and consideration to our wives, we fulfill our marriage role. Coupling this with submission by the wife, both submit to Christ, God is glorified, and the marriage relationship is rewarding and fulfilling. Equality before God is in view here.

This part of verse 7 shows more than any that the husband and wife relationship is first and foremost one of a brother and sister in Christ. It provides the day-to-day context of marriage and the joys and difficulties it faces. It also gives a backdrop by which all activities, plans, hopes, dreams, and objectives of our homes and marriages are made. Everything in our marriages needs an eternal perspective and must be done in eternity’s light. We do all in anticipation and expectation of the day of when we stand before the Lord to give an account of what we did in this marriage. And husbands are to take the lead.

Husbands, do you initiate the reading and studying of God's Word together? Do you pray together? Do you make future plans for your family with an eternal perspective and in such a way that they do not contradict or become incompatible with it?

And do you lead the way in talking about meaningful things? Learn to redeem your conversations – take inventory of what you discuss. What is your ratio of earthly to heavenly discussions? If tipped too high to the earthly, change it. Keep in mind, eternity is where we will spend most of our time. 70-80 years divided by the years of eternity is a pretty small percentage!!

But what if you have an unbelieving wife – one who has resisted the Gospel of Jesus Christ to-date? Well, the principle is the same – marriage remains the grace of life. Live with her in an understanding way and show her honor as the weaker vessel. The object of the teaching is the same as for wives in 3:1, “*so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of...*” Be Christ to her, showing her first hand the everyday grace of God and the patient longsuffering of Him towards her. Remember what Peter wrote in 2:12, “*that....they may see your good deeds*” Now you will not be able to exhort her in the same way as a sister in Christ but you can lead her in a way that your family is honoring to the Lord.

### **In Its Relationship with God**

And we are to live with our wives in an understanding way and to honor them “*so that [our] prayers may not be hindered.*” in verse 7. Prayer is vital to our growth and effectiveness as Christians. How can we function without it? Disregarding 3:7 in our marriage, hinders our prayer life. Communication with God is altered. The Expanded Translation reads like this, “in order that no satanic inroads be made into your prayers.”

Our relationship to our spouse is of utmost importance in God's eyes. In fact, it is central to our walk with and in our growth in Christ. We, as husbands, may pursue many things and seek many accomplishments in this life. Many of them are good in and of themselves – many even involve the church and kingdom work. We can fall into a subtle trap though....pursuing deep theological knowledge, taking on multiple church ministries and activities, taking regular lengthy missions trips, etc – all good things. However, men, if we do not first lead our homes by living with our wives in an understanding way and showing honor to them, we are missing it. The Lord will allow no substantial fruit to be borne in our lives until we go back and get it right at home. He watches our homes carefully – it means much to Him. In fact, He compares the husband-wife relationship to the relationship between Christ and His church. Both of which the objects of these relationships are to be died for.....Do not let your prayers be hindered!

### **In Its Kingdom Purpose**

Why is positive leadership in our homes so important? We have already touched on how highly the Lord views our relationships especially marriage. But Peter also gives us further insight back in 2:9-12; “*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His*



*marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

The passage says we have been chosen – chosen for what? We have been chosen to proclaim – proclaim what? Well, according to 2:9 we are to proclaim the excellencies of Him. We are to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ and to use words when only absolutely necessary..... *"they may see your good works.....*in 2:12, right? The marriage relationship is an absolute mess in our world and in our land. It is mocked, it is devalued, and it is a place of much unhappiness. Most marriages start off for the wrong reasons, with self centered motives and expectations (“fill me up”, “do me”) and often end literally or effectively with an attitude of resigned defeat or one of simple survival. Lost people in lost marriages know there has to be something better. But wait!....they see us....husbands lovingly leading their wives in an understanding way, honoring their wives, protecting them, guiding them and wives then responding and submitting. What a beautiful thing! And they say “Where is this coming from? Why are they different?” Then after proclaiming Christ with our actions and with our marriages, we can proclaim and share the good news of Jesus Christ with our mouths – His sacrifice on our behalf, our sins forgiven, and a new life. They can then *“glorify God on the day of visitation.”* in verse 12. But we cannot do this if we are not leading in our homes men. We just look like the rest – our testimony is muted.

Leading our homes involves dying to ourselves....Peter calls it *“abstaining from the passions of the flesh.”* Marriage is not about us – it is about our sister God has given to us – laying down our very lives for her as Christ did for His bride, the church.

And let me offer you one more reason for leading in your homes – one that has already been alluded to. We will stand before the Lord some day to give an account of our lives here. And for those of us who were married in this life, I believe much of that accounting will involve how we did with our marriages. Both will give an account but husbands I believe will have the greater responsibility. We are to lead our wives home as our beautiful bride to meet the King and to do all we can today to make her ready for that day. Do not be a stumbling block for her. Help her to be all that the Lord wants her to be and do not be ashamed when you both stand before Him.

## **Closing Thoughts**

Husbands.....

- Understand your wives.....
- Keep learning....
- Honor your wife....
- Remember she is equal before God..

And husbands you might say today, “I already do all these things”. Well, good – keeping on doing them, keep on understanding your wife, honor her, lead her. Be ever more diligent in this - we have an enemy out there who seeks to wreak havoc with our marriages. Even a cursory look

around shows he has done a pretty good job – in the church as well as the world. And be honest, there is much to improve upon.

Or you might say, “I have never really considered myself to be the leader in my home” or “I have taken advantage of my leadership role in the home and have not led in a loving way.” Well, acknowledge this to your wife, ask for forgiveness, ask the Lord for wisdom, and meditate and act upon these verses and other Scriptures. Talk to other men around you who are leading their homes well. Work at it and do not give up and by God’s grace things will change.

Note that children-rearing has really not been discussed here. Not every marriage has children but if yours does, there is no greater example you can give them fathers but to lovingly lead your wife in a positive and biblical way. Teaching them by example will speak volumes into their lives.

Now this message has been directed towards husbands tonight. Wives – you have a responsibility here as well. Help your husband (your brother) with these things. Gently, respectfully, and lovingly point out areas where your husband can lead your home better – be more transparent if need be so they can understand you better – give them opportunities to honor you. Most importantly, lovingly and eagerly submit to their leadership. This serves to encourage your husband to perform his role more which makes it easier for you to submit and onward and upward your marriage goes, honoring Christ, glorifying Him in the midst of a crooked and lost world, drawing those who do not know Him (starting with your children) and encouraging other Christian marriages around you.

And what about for those not married? Well, let’s read on

*Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. For ‘Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.’” 1 Peter 3:8-12*

Peter closes this section with instruction for all. Yes, marriage is a unique relationship ordained by God but at its core it is a brother-sister relationship. So do you see it? These are simply the commands for all of us – how we are to treat one another –brother to brother, sister to sister, and brother to sister. Practice these things regardless of whether marriage is in your future or not.

So husbands, lead your wife lovingly and with understanding and honor, protect her, set the tone for your family spiritually, in direction, in conflict, in dying to self, and in providing a portrait of Christ. By doing so, you will grow in Christ and your fellowship with Him will not be hindered. By His grace, you will give Him another reason to say, “*Well done, good and faithful servant*” when this life comes to an end.

You may not be much in the world's eyes but if you lead your home as the Scriptures command you will have accomplished everything in the Lord's eyes. By His grace, lead well, live well, and finish well to the glory of the Lord and His great Name.

Let's pray....