



# WEEKLY SERMON

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Message: Father's Day - 2023

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Text: See lesson

In I Peter 3:1-2, 7 we read, “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; (2) While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. (7) 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.” In Titus 2:1-5 we read, “But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: (2) That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. (3) The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; (4) That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”

What can you do when you and your spouse don't have the same level of spiritual maturity or interest? The answer doesn't lie in lecturing or manipulating your mate. Instead, consider the following five actions (two in Part I and three in Part II) you can take to better understand your spouse and make the concept of spiritual growth more intriguing to him or her.

**Be Patient:** Whether your spouse is a new Christian, a non-Christian, or just a nonplussed Christian, it's hard not to overreact when he or she doesn't seem to care about the most important thing in your life. But try to remember that God loves your mate even more than you do. He may even be taking your partner on a journey that will ultimately produce a deeper faith.

In any event, be careful. God may *choose* to reach out to your spouse through you, but He doesn't *need* your help. Sadly, spiritual conflicts are often made worse by a spouse attempting to jump-start a mate's conscience or play the role of the Holy Spirit.

**Don't Stand in the Way:** While perfection isn't possible or even necessary, your behavior can attract or repel your spouse where spiritual growth is concerned. You're living out what you're experiencing with God. Is it appealing? Is your relationship with Christ making you a more enjoyable person to live with - or just a more religious one? Those who languish spiritually especially need to see the real deal. Your mate will benefit from your companionship when you're serious about your devotion to Christ *and* realistic about your struggles, too.

**Be Authentic:** You should not only share your faith with your spouse, but your concerns as well. It would be hypocritical to pretend you're not worried when a spouse struggles spiritually. But *how* you share may be as important as *what* you share. Very few spouses would react negatively to comments like, "I know you're going to be safe to share this with, but it's still not easy to admit I'm worried about you."

The spouse who struggles with faith issues needs a gentle partner to come home to. A holier-than-thou approach is sure to deepen the divide--not only between your partner and yourself, but also between your

partner and God (and it can't do much for your own walk with Christ, either). Nobody wants to be smothered or judged or patronized. It's not an issue of spiritual leadership or authority; it's just human nature to pull away when someone invades your space physically or emotionally.

When you're honest about your own faith issues, you assure your spouse that it's part of the journey to have questions and doubts. Your transparency can be especially healing if your mate has felt - accurately or not - that spirituality has become a competition in your marriage. This process applies the scriptural idea of comforting others with the same comfort you've received (2 Corinthians 1:4).

**Stay Balanced:** There's no doubt about the importance of faith. But it's possible to lose a healthy perspective, especially when you feel your mate's Christian commitment is at stake. Even though you believe you can trust God with your partner's spiritual development, you may try to take matters into your own hands.

Sometimes a concerned spouse drops hints or invites others to offer unsolicited counsel to the spiritually indifferent spouse. While well intended, these approaches are manipulative. Others withdraw from a mate and become excessively involved with church or other religious endeavors. Make no mistake: You can't be too devoted to Christ. Nor should you minimize your faith to accommodate your spouse. But over spiritualization and hyper-religiosity will hinder your efforts as much as falling into the opposite ditch of apathy.

**Examine the Reasons:** Before you sum up your spouse's struggle as merely a "sin issue," take some time to consider his context. What was his religious experience as a child? Was his faith nurtured or hindered? Was his parents' faith meaningful or a chore? Has he experienced a personal relationship with Christ or mere religion?

The Bible is clear: We're not authorized to judge others (Matthew 7:1). Sometimes in marriage we're prone to judge because of what we know - or *think* we know - about our spouses. However, we do know that God cares about our mates. The struggle may take time, and may even challenge our faith. In the meantime, we can trust Him to nurture our spouses and our marriages.

PS: The above was used in a church bulletin insert eleven years ago – the origin is unknown.

In His Amazing Grace  
*Pastor David Miklas*

## *Happy FATHER'S Day*

**A Dad** is more special than words can convey. He helps us and guides us in so many ways - the strength we depend on, advice we can trust, the example we look to when help is a must.

**It's Dad** who can build it or fix it or move it. Some jobs, it just takes a Dad who can do it. For many problems or questions we've had it seems that the answer was always, "Ask Dad."

**We depend** so upon him for so many things. And he's always there when he's needed, it seems, with the time and the skill, even money at times, That are just what is needed to fix things just fine.

**It's Dad's** great example, as well as his word that taught some of the greatest lessons we've heard. Hard work and honesty and kindness and such Are lessons that Dads teach and kids need so much.

**A Dad's** so important, and deserves so much credit, but often it seems that he just doesn't get it, For it seems that we just don't know how to express, how much he contributes to our happiness.

**So Dad**, this is your day, and we want you to see that we're just as thankful as thankful can be, That God gave us one of the greatest blessings we've had When He gave us you as our wonderful Dad.

# Great Fathers Love Their Wives

## Bible Study Objectives:

1. We study the Bible to find out what is right/wrong, how to get right and stay right with God: (II Timothy 3:16)
2. We study the Bible in order to discover specifically what we need to change in order to obey God: (James 1:22-25)
3. We study the Bible in order to hear how God wants us to personally change and grow: (Psalms 139:23, Galatians 6:7)
4. We study the Bible to discover specifically what God expects of all Christian husbands: (Colossians 3:19, I Peter 3:7)

## Diagnostic Questions On How To Love Your Wife:

1. Are you really saved, a real Christian, and is there any evidence to confirm this? (John 3:3, Romans 10:13)
2. Are you viewed as salt/light to others, and do you have a reputation for good works/behavior? (Matthew 5:13-16)
3. Are you making wise decisions in alignment with God's word, or do you make selfish decisions only? (Ephesians 5:18)
4. Are you really the spiritual head of your wife/home, and do you submit yourself to your wife? (Ephesians 5:21-23)
5. Are you aware that the sins/bad habits of your wife should never be exposed in a public setting? (I Peter 4:8)
6. Are you aware that no one has ever communicated effectively when the temper is out of control? (I Corinthians 13:5)
7. Are you aware that using "toilet language" is never useful in making the marriage/family better? (Ephesians 4:29)
8. Are you aware that problems cannot be solved unless they can be discussed logically? (Isaiah 1:18, I Samuel 25:17)
9. Are you aware that you are to know how your wife thinks – feels – acts - reacts and not be bitter with her? (I Peter 3:7)

Do you know that you can only influence your wife, you cannot change her, unless she wants to? (I Samuel 25:18)

Do you know that if your wife refuses help, then you are to leave her alone? (Hosea 4:17, Colossians 3:21, Romans 12:18)

Do you know how to accurately read and respond to body language when nothing is being said? (Genesis 4:6)

Do you know that extroverts are great talkers/poor listeners and introverts are exactly opposite? (I Peter 3:7)

Do you know that extroverts talk before they think, and introverts are the opposite? (Proverbs 10:19)

Do you know if your wife thinks/talks in generalities or needs specificity to function well? (I Corinthians 14:40)

Do you know if your wife makes decisions out of her heart/feelings or her head/logic? (John 18:10)

Do you know if your wife values harmony/peace over truth/facts when dealing with people? (I Samuel 3:13)

Do you know if your wife is super sensitive to any words that are negative or create conflict? (I Thessalonians 5:12)

Do you know if your wife is open to feedback that allows her to change and to grow in wisdom? (Proverbs 9:8)

Do you know if your wife is a "messy" or a "cleanie"? Is she organized or unorganized? (Luke 14:28-30)

Do you know if your wife is mostly on time, or often late and forgetful in her daily work execution? (Ephesians 5:16)

#### Bible Study Summary:

1. One of the greatest gifts a Dad can give to his children is to unconditionally love their mother: (Colossians 3:19)
2. No amount of success on the job will ever compensate for failure at home with wife/children: (II Samuel 12:10)

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**The lesson above was written by Tommy Dowling,  
a Sunday School Teacher for over 40 years.**

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon "**Great Fathers Love Their Wives**" right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, "...**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...**"

Romans 10:13, "**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**"

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: "**I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.**"

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, please let me know. Please send an e-mail to [pastormiklas@aol.com](mailto:pastormiklas@aol.com) and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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