



# WEEKLY SERMON

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**Sunday** September 10, 2023  
**Pastor** David Miklas  
**Message:** The Christian Home

**Phone:** 717-715-3317  
**e-mail:** [pastormiklas@aol.com](mailto:pastormiklas@aol.com)  
**Text:** I Peter 3:1-7

In Matthew 18:15-17 we read, **“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. (16) But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. (17) And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.”**

Here Jesus talks about a person who has committed a sin against us. This is not an offense but rather a sin. The very best Christians in the world are subject to mistakes, misunderstandings, and even sin. What should we do when another Christian has **SINNED** against us or caused us to stumble? Verse 15 tells us we are to keep it private. If you are sinned against, it is your responsibility to go to that individual and let them know of their **"TRESPASS AGAINST YOU."** It is not the individual's responsibility to come to you. You are to go to them in **"PRIVATE."** Does not the text say **"Go and tell him his fault between thee and him ALONE?"** Give a person a chance to correct their wrongs or to tell their side of the case. Nine times out of ten, this would avoid the gossip, ill feelings and broken fellowship among Christians.

This verse tells us that Christians are to never tell others about someone's sins until they **FIRST** honestly and in meekness approach the offender to hear their side of the matter. Great good can be done by a quiet, Christian, **PRIVATE** approach to another Christian. Even if no other good is done, you can find out the full truth, see the other person's viewpoint and have a clear conscience that you have earnestly tried.

If you don't do this according to Matthew 5:23-24, (**“Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; (24) Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.”**) you offend God and sometimes make useless your prayers.

In fact if possible according to Ephesians 4:26, (**“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:”**) the brother should be approached immediately, before sundown, so that no bitterness will develop in your heart.

Notice the important aim of this private visit: **"thou hast gained thy brother."** Our primary aim above all else is to go to him with the idea of winning your brother, not winning an argument. It is possible to win the argument and lose your brother. **"One of the first motives of every Christian should be to keep intact the brotherly love and fellowship of the body of Christ. It is a terrible sin to prolong or cause divisions and strife among Christians and in the church of Christ."**

## Quotes to consider:

1. No man has the right to do as he pleases unless he pleases to do RIGHT.

2. The Christian faith offers PEACE in war, COMFORT in sorrow, STRENGTH in weakness, LIGHT in darkness.
3. A lot of sins committed today are a result of a lack of genuine gratitude in the heart.

In His Amazing Grace –  
*Pastor David Miklas*

# “Bricks that Build a Marriage”

**INTRODUCTION:** Four-year-old Suzie had just been told the story of "Snow White" for the first time in her life. She could hardly wait to get home from nursery school to tell her mommy. With wide-eyed excitement, she retold the fairy tale to her mother that afternoon. After relating how Prince Charming had arrived on his beautiful white horse and kissed Snow-White back to life,

**Suzie asked loudly: "And do you know what happened then?"**

**"Yes," said her mom, "they lived happily ever after."**

**"No," responded Suzie, with a frown, "....they got married."**

In childlike innocence, that little nursery schooler spoke the in-depth truth without realizing it. Getting married and living happily ever after are sometimes not necessarily synonymous.

Someone said, **"Marriage is not so much finding the right person, as it is being the right person."** There are two things that make a real marriage work.

**First: A women characterized by SUBMISSION.**

**Second: A man characterized by SACRIFICIAL LOVE.**

Tucked away within those two statements are two penetrating questions each partner needs to ask.

**The WIFE must come to terms with her role and ask, "Do I love my husband enough to live for Him?"**

**The HUSBAND must come to terms with his role and ask, "Do I love my wife enough to die for her?"**

Searching questions, but they put the issue in proper perspective. And yes, I am realistic enough to know that there will always be some who take advantage of their roles:

**Husbands who crack the whip because they are "in charge."**

**Wives who maneuver, using "submissive techniques."**

Believe me this brings incredible pressures into a home. Even though wrongs are committed and unfair advantages are taken by each, God's over all structure still stands. What we often need is some practical help with **HOW** to put it into practice. With that in mind, let's look again at the marriage scene.

**The Apostle PAUL in Ephesians 5:22-33 gives us the "WHAT," in which he explains the structure.**

**The Apostle PETER in I Peter 3:1-9 gives us the "HOW," in which he shows us the bricks that give the marriage "color and beauty."**

Our text in this message is found in I Peter 3: 1-9.

**“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. (3) Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; (4) But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. (5) For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: (6) Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. (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. (8) Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: (9) Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing."

In this message I want to look at **FOUR** marriage principles for **WIFES** in verses 1-6 and **THREE** marriage principles for **HUSBANDS**, all found in verse 7. We'll conclude with a brief statement from verses 8-9.

**MARRIAGE PRINCIPLES FOR WIVES, I Peter 3:1-6:** I am confident some one is thinking, "Sure, I will be glad to live like that as long as I have the right kind of a husband." However, the point is these verses are written especially to the wife who has the **WRONG** kind of a husband. Notice Peter doesn't allow the wife to say,

"If I had a Christian husband,"  
"If I had a spiritual husband,"  
"It could be different if only..."

Forget the "If only" and the "if they." Living as a Christian does not depend upon anyone else.

**Peter is talking to wives whose husbands are unsaved or whose husbands are saved but living as carnal Christians.**

All the principles for wives begin with the letter "A."

**PRINCIPLE NUMBER 1. ACTION:** This first principle found in verses 1-2, in the word "conversation" speaks about your "behavior." In summary, even though your husband may be tough to live with, **he isn't blind**. He cannot ignore the behavior of his godly wife. **Nagging and preaching** will only drive a greater wedge between your husband and Christ. I believe Peter is saying,

**More could be accomplished if you would go home and begin to let your behavior at home speak for itself." Your prayer ought to be "Lord change me," before you pray "Lord deal with my husband.**

In verse 1 the word "subjection" denotes the idea of "submission." In the context we find two basic components of submission,

**In verse 6 we have the element of OBEDIENCE, this speaks of your ACTION. This has to do with WHAT you do.**

**In verse 2 we have the element of RESPECT, this speaks of your ATTITUDE. This has to do with HOW you do it.**

**ACTION and ATTITUDE** go hand-in hand with **SUBMISSION**. The absence of the one will cancel out the effect of the other. Listen to these words written by a woman in the book, "I Am a Woman by God's Design." This is from her chapter "Subordinate but not Inferior."

**"Submission is God's design for a woman. Submission is an attitude of obedience. True submission which is motivated by a genuine desire to be obedient to the heavenly Father makes no consideration of selfish ends.**

**What will I get in return, if I submit?**

**Is he worthy of my submission?**

**Will I lose my self-identity and my individual rights, if I submit to my husband?**

**Before a woman can successfully submit to her husband, she must first submit to Christ. Yes, submitting to the Lord means giving up all her selfish desires and personal rights. Then, no longer are we alone in our control of our direction and decisions, but the Holy Spirit is to**

govern our lives. That will ultimately affect our emotions, attitudes, and responses."

Ladies, principle number 1 says, "Let your **ACTIONS** speak louder than your words.

Let your **ACTIONS LOVE** your Husband to Christ. Don't remind him about God, remind God in your prayers about your husband. Examine yourself. Entrust your husband to God and leave the consequences of his **ACTIONS** to your Heavenly Father.

In the meantime let your submissive behavior be on constant display. It's what one-man calls, "the silent preaching of a lovely life."

**PRINCIPLE NUMBER 2. APPEARANCE:** The second principle for wives is found in verse 3. Holding your place here, turn to I Timothy 2:9-10 where we read,

**"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."**

Nothing is wrong with cosmetics, jewelry or clothing. Paul in this text is telling women **NOT TO ALLOW THE EXTERNAL THINGS** to be their only criteria for beauty. Remember this, **"THE TRUE BEAUTY OF A WOMAN COMES FROM WITH-IN."**

Returning to I Peter 3:3, Peter makes his point clear **"DON'T GO OVERBOARD"** patching up the externals if your internals are lacking. Don't place all your emphasis on the outside. This passage isn't bad-mouthing cosmetics or taking shots at keeping yourself physically attractive, ladies. It's just encouraging you to keep it in balance.

Let me remind you, while at work some of your husbands encounter fantastic, well-dressed women, so please think about what they see when they walk in the house at 5:30 p.m.? You may be thinking, preacher what's so important about appearance?

**Just how attractive are you to him when you smell like you have been dipping Lysol all day long?**

**Just how attractive are you to him when you meet him looking like an unmade bed?**

For sure, you need to be pure within, but don't stop when you get to the outside. Ladies, from this passage, and that of I Timothy 2 and I Corinthians 11, much of what you do ought to call attention to the beauty of your hair and face. Your appearance is a significant principle that helps build a marriage.

**PRINCIPLE NUMBER 3. ATTITUDE:** We move from the externals in verse 3 to the internal of verse 4. Notice the phrase **"the hidden man of the heart."** Also notice the attitude God considers important, the quality of a **"meek and quiet spirit."** In fact, Peter indicates that this quality is worth a **"great price."** These two words could be translated by the word **"precious"** meaning a quality that is imperishable, it cannot be erased or destroyed. I say that because the words **"great price"** are from the same Greek word Peter uses in:

I Peter 1:7 referring to our imperishable faith, **"That the trial of your faith, being much more PRECIOUS than the gold that perisheth..."**

I Peter 1:19 referring to the imperishable blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, **"But with the PRECIOUS blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."**

Wives, your attitude is that important; it is precious, it is of great price, it cannot be erased, or passed over or destroyed.

When Peter uses the term **"meek spirit"** he has in mind a genuine humility. It speaks of a **grateful spirit**. The rights-orientated woman feels that she is **OWED** certain things, and her expectations can never be satisfied. She chains her husband, children, and others to expectations they cannot possibly

fulfill. Yet the woman who has yielded all her expectations to God, has a **"meek or grateful spirit."**

**When Peter uses the term "quiet spirit"** he has in mind a woman of tranquility. The wise woman lifts the spirit of her home by speaking words of praise to God, words of sincere appreciation, gratitude, and admiration to others. Critical, belittling words wound the spirit and destroy the atmosphere of the home.

Peter seems to be echoing the words of Solomon from Proverbs 14:1, **"Every wise woman buildeth her house, but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands."**

Now before leaving this principle I want to add that, in my opinion, it only takes a little while to doll up the externals (**some husbands think it takes forever, but that is a woman for you, the externals are important**). However, cultivating **"the hidden person of the heart"** is a life-long process.

**PRINCIPLE NUMBER 4. ATTENTION:** We've covered three principles thus far: **Action, Appearance and Attitude.** We need one more to complete the pattern for the wife, and that one is **Attention** in verses 5-6.

Sarah **submitted and obeyed.** Now before you get your feathers ruffled, it will help to realize the Greek verb for obeyed means **"to pay close attention to someone,"** which conveys the idea of attending to the needs of another.

Ladies, please listen closely. If you are the energetic type, your tendency will be to dash all over the globe, responding to the needs of people everywhere. Everything will clamor for your time. And unless you're careful, they'll get it, if not all of it, most of it. Even church stuff will occupy every hour you'll give. Over the years, I have meet women who are far more concerned about responding to the needs of others outside the home than to that one individual most important to you within the home.

Picture Sarah leaving this note pinned to their tent one evening as Abraham shuffles home from work, bone-tired and extremely hungry:

**Abe: Mutton pot pie on the stone. Gone to Torah study with the ladies at Bethel (Bible study at church). Took the small chariot, be home late. Don't worry. Be sure to give Ishmael herbs for cough at sundown. And by the way, bathe Isaac. Love, Sarah PS: Don't forget to close the flaps when you go to bed. A sandstorm is coming and you know how you hate to sweep out the tent.**

Hold it pastor, **"If I start being as responsive as you suggest, my husband will take all kinds of advantage of me. He'll walk all over me. Give him an inch and he takes a mile."** Stop and look at the last part of verse 6 again, **"as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement."** There is your promise - **God will honor your LOVING and SUPPORTIVE response.**

Now before I leave your principles, ladies, and get to the husband's, let me say two concluding things.

**First:** In view of verses 5-6, may I challenge you, who know what is right, to do what is right! Please stop and think, just maybe you need to give less attention to so many outside activities and more attention, undivided attention, to your husband and home. For sure, some people won't take this advice, but if you do, you will reap amazing and rewarding dividends.

**Second:** Once again read verse 1. You see the word **"won."** It's a military term. Ladies, if you have an unsaved husband or a spiritually unsympathetic husband, don't sit back to sulk and suffer. **Dedicate yourself to Christ, and give Him over to the Lord. Let Jesus take him captive for you and for the glory of God.**

However be careful of the weapons you use. Make sure they are the weapons of obedience, submission, meekness and quietness. In other words overcome evil with **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

**MARRIAGE PRINCIPLES FOR HUSBANDS, I Peter 3:7:** Well gentlemen take a deep breath, it's your turn. If you are ready, Peter has three principles to share with you. They are all found in one verse, verse 7, but each is equally important and powerful.

**PRINCIPLE NUMBER 1. "LIVE WITH YOUR WIFE."** The first principle seems obvious. Verse 7 says, "husbands dwell with them," that means live with your wife. I can tell you are all thinking, Pastor, "I do that!

**I come home every night to the same address.  
We eat at the same table and sleep in the same bed.**

But that's not all this verse is talking about. The word "dwell" means to be "completely at home with." It calls for a close companionship.

Let me point out a problem. Men, you are either thinking of, or you have verbally said, "My job is the office or factory, her job is the home. I earn the bucks, she handles the bills. The business is mine, including all its headaches. The home is hers and all those needs related to it." That may be the way you were raised or you were taught, my friend, but it isn't the way God originally designed marriage for husbands. Be careful, living with your wife is your responsibility:

**to lay the groundwork for domestic harmony,  
to cultivate an in-depth partnership with your mate, and  
to initiate the action, and encourage the progress.**

Let me give you a little secret. Here the truth hurts. I know because when I typed this, I had to stop and think, "Being the Hot Shot on the job is nothing to the nitty gritty leadership you need to maintain the home."

I want you to turn to a text that applies to pastors and deacons, but it can be applied as good criteria for all Godly men. It's found in I Timothy 3:4-5, 12.

**"One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (5) (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) (12) Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well."**

Did you notice the words **ruleth, rule and ruling**. It simply means "to manage."

Listen to this: "A good manager knows how to put other people to work... In the home, as the manager the husband should have his eye focused on all that is happening, but he does not do everything himself. Instead, he looks at the whole picture and keeps everything under control. In the process, he will be careful not to neglect or destroy his wife's abilities. Rather, he will use them to the fullest, as he thinks of her as a useful, helpful, and wonderful blessing from God."

Gentleman, let me repeat this counsel, **you may be the hot-shot employer or awesome decision making boss at the job or office, but God says you are to be an understanding manager in the home.**

**PRINCIPLE NUMBER 2. "KNOW YOUR WIFE."** Again from verse 7 we read "dwell with them (that is with your wife) according to knowledge..." This principle says simply, "Know your wife." How often we hear wives cry out, either directly or indirectly:

**He never understands me.**

**He is insensitive to my needs.  
He doesn't comprehend my heart.  
He doesn't know what I am thinking.**

I know someone will say, "How can we really know her? At times she doesn't know what she wants, since she exhibits that women's prerogative of changing her mind." Well that is the very reason why she needs her man to direct her into what she should be considering.

"Knowing" your wife, means knowing those things about her others don't know and others will not ever know. What are they?

**Her deep fears and cares,  
Her disappointments and her expectations, and  
Her thoughts and dreams.**

Knowing your wife calls for a sensitive spirit, a willingness to be involved,

**To communicate as a valued partner, and  
To listen with an open heart, mind, and eyes to show you care.**

This is a very important point, one which will definitely help a marriage. Men are to "...dwell with them according to knowledge..." "Know your wife!"

**PRINCIPLE NUMBER 3. HONOR YOUR WIFE.**" I want you to notice the word "give." It means "to grant, to assign." Husbands are to assign a place of honor to the wife.

Now the word "honor" interestingly comes from the same root word as the words "great price" used at the end of verse 4. Peter is saying, husbands are to assign the wife a place that is precious. She is a priceless gem, for in Proverbs 31:10 we read, "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies." Again, simply put she is a priceless gem. Another way of saying it would be "Since she is like a pure china doll, husbands don't become a bull in a china shop." You obviously know what happens when you do. So exactly how can you honor your wife?

**Sometimes all it takes are some well-chosen words, or  
Sometimes it may be a well-written note, or  
Sometimes it may be a well-chosen thoughtful thing you do, or  
Sometimes it may be a well-chosen gift you give her, nothing big, nothing spectacular, but it has her name written all over it.**

Remember, she is a priceless gem, so be sure to assign her that place of honor.

Let's stop right here and put some handles to this message. They may be difficult but they are necessary.

Remember what I said earlier. "Marriage is not so much finding the right person, as it is being the right person."

**The WIFE must come to terms with her role and ask, "Do I love my husband enough to live for Him?"  
The HUSBAND must come to terms with his role and ask, "Do I love my wife enough to die for her?"**

What principle(s) do you need to work on, or need to change for the better?. Don't say, well "if" he would only" or "if only she would." No, you ought to be praying, "Lord change me," before praying, "Lord, change my spouse." In closing let me draw your attention to two more truths:

**First: From verses 8-9, to pull this off you need to have a humble spirit.**



**Second: To have this kind of marriage you need to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord.**

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If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon **“Bricks that Build a Marriage”** then 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 let me know. Please send an e-mail to, [pdmikBBM@aol.com](mailto:pdmikBBM@aol.com) and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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