

Unanswered Prayer: Poor Martial Relationship

Context matters. When the apostle Peter writes about prayer (1 Pet 3:6-9), he refers to the marriage relationship. Marriage is a sacred relationship between a man and a woman. Review these two passages by Jesus and the apostle Paul to understand the context that the apostle Peter is writing of about prayer.

And some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and saying, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?" And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." (Matt 19:3-6, LSB)

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. (Eph 5:25-31, LSB)

1. Make 2 charts of your observations: 1) List how husbands are to live and explain each action, and 2) List the apostle Peter's summation and explain each action. Use a Bible dictionary if needed. Share your findings!

just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. You have become her children if you do good, not fearing any intimidation. You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered. Now to sum up, all of you be like-minded, sympathetic, brotherly, tender-hearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but giving a blessing instead, for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. (1 Pet 3:6-9, LSB)

The Teacher Note for this lesson is at:

<http://Helpmewithbiblestudy.org/25Curriculum/Class9-12/print/ChristianLiving.Prayer.FailurePoorMartialRelation.9-12.pdf>

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Teacher Notes

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Teach the student to make the effort to find other passages about a specific topic to understand the context of a passage under study. In this instance, learning about the biblical view of marriage provides clarity to what the apostle Peter is teaching about marriage and prayer.

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Ask the student: whose prayer effectiveness is the apostle Peter speaking of?

Peter is speaking to what hinders a husband’s prayer!

Help the student with his observations for chart #1: how does a husband live with his wife? Share your thoughts!

“Just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord”

Sarah’s respect and obedience to Abraham is exhibited in her speech – this is not uncommon for that period of the ancient world. It is an example of submission.

“in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel”

Similarly submit to your wife in an understanding way as with someone who is physically weaker.

“show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life”

Respect and admire your wife as she is a fellow Believer.

Ask the student: when Peter sums up (“now to sum up, all of you...), who is he addressing?

Peter is speaking to everyone – not just to husbands.

Help the student with his observations for chart #2: how does everyone live with each other? Take some time to discuss and flesh out your interpretations of your observed data!

“like-minded”	Share the same perspective.
“sympathetic”	Be considerate of others: agreeing with their feelings and disposition.
“brotherly”	Caring and loving another as a family member.
“tender-hearted”	Being gentle and kind.
“humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but giving a blessing”	<p>Being humble is not attaching importance to one’s attributes and abilities. For example God considered Moses the most humblest man on earth.</p> <p>Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman. And they said, “Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?” And the LORD heard it. Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth. (Num 12:1-3, ESV)</p> <p>The biblical concept of humble goes beyond today’s view. Moses was esteemed for his humbleness, because he sought God’s counsel in everything.</p> <p>In “not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling,” a humble person recognizes that God is the One who judges.</p>