As you read through this exploration of a husband's responsibilities based on scripture, you will come across a number of excerpts from well respected authors. Feel free to mark up the margins, circle things you either have questions about, or feel are especially important to your relationship. This is your manual – MARK ALL OVER IT! (also – there are a few Greek terms from studying the verses – feel free to skip past them unless you have specific background in Greek)

The Husbands Responsibilities

1 Peter 3:7 Verse-by-verse, Part 3

Pastor George Stahnke, 10/17/2004

1 Peter 3:7 (NASB) You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, 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.

Husbands know your wife's needs

1 Peter 3:7a (AMP) In the same way you married men should live considerately with [your wives], with an intelligent recognition [of the marriage relation],

"*The phrase be considerate as you live with your wives is literally translated "living together according to knowledge." That a husband should be considerate implies more than just a kind attitude; it goes deeper, implying that his consideration of his wife is based on his knowledge of her needs, desires, gifts, and abilities. A husband who acts on his knowledge of his wife will greatly enrich her life, as well as his own.*" —Life Application Bible Commentary: 1 Peter

"*A Christian husband should be intimately aware of his wife's needs, her strengths and weaknesses, and her goals and desires. He should know as much about her as possible in order to respond in the best way to her.*" —The Nelson Study Bible

Husbands should be willing to sacrifice

Ephesians 5:25 (TMNT) Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting.

Every husband should make Christ's love for the church the pattern for loving his wife. In so doing he will love her *sacrificially*. As Christ willingly gave Himself for the church; so the husband, in love, willingly gives himself for his wife. There is no sacrifice that he can make that is to great.

Her needs are of primary importance

Ephesians 5:28—29 (NASB) [28]So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; [29]for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church,

Nourishes is used twice Ephesians 5:29 and 6:4. Husbands are to *tenderly* work with their wives encouraging their growth in their God given strengths and talents. They should also promote emotional health and spiritual growth through their loving care.

Nourish: G1625 ἐκτρέφω ektrephō *ek-tref'-o* From G1537 and G5142; to *rear up* to maturity, that is, (generally) to *cherish* or *train*:—bring up, nourish.
—Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

Ephesians 6:4 (NIV) Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring [ἐκτρέφω] them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. [Emphasis added]

Ephesians 6:4 (AMP) Fathers, do not irritate {and} provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to resentment], but rear them [tenderly] in the training {and} discipline and the counsel {and} admonition of the Lord.

Tenderly: G2282 θάλπω thalpō *thal'-po* Thayer's Greek Definitions: (1) to warm, keep warm (2) to cherish with tender love, to foster with tender care

1 Thessalonians 2:7 (NASB) But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing *mother* tenderly cares [θάλπω] for her own children. [Emphasis added]

"The blessed marriage is the marriage in which the husband loves his wife with unlimited caring. Something is basically wrong if she is looked at only as a cook, housekeeper, occasional companion, and sex partner. She is a God-given treasure to be loved, cared for, nourished, and cherished. To nourish a wife is to provide for her needs, to give that which helps her grow and mature in favor with God and man. To cherish her is to use tender love and physical affection to give her warmth, comfort, protection, and security. Those responsibilities are primarily the husband's, not the wife's. As Christ provides for His church, so the husband provides for his wife and family."
—MacArthur's New Testament Commentary: Ephesians 5:29

Husbands should love their wives

Ephesians 5:33 (NASB) Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must *see to it* that she respects her husband.

Colossians 3:19 (AMP) Husbands, love your wives [be affectionate and sympathetic with them] and do not be harsh {or} bitter {or} resentful toward them.

Proverbs 5:18—19 (TMNT) [18]Bless your fresh-flowing fountain! Enjoy the wife you married as a young man![19]Lovely as an angel, beautiful as a rose—don't ever quit taking delight in her body. Never take her love for granted!

Proverbs 5:18—19b (AMP) [18]Let your fountain [of human life] be blessed [with the rewards of fidelity], and rejoice in the wife of your youth. [19]Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant doe [tender, gentle, attractive]--let her bosom satisfy you at all times, and always be transported with delight in her love.

Proverbs 5:19b (NASB) Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love.

1 Corinthians 13:4 (AMP) [4]Love endures long {and} is patient and kind; love never is envious {nor} boils over with jealousy, is not boastful {or} vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.[5]It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) {and} does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights {or} its own way, {for} it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy {or} fretful {or} resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].[6]It does not rejoice at injustice {and} unrighteousness, but

rejoices when right {and} truth prevail.[7]Love bears up under anything {and} everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening].[8]Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. As for prophecy (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled {and} pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed {and} cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth].

Husbands honor, protect & provide

1 Peter 3:7 (TLB) You husbands must be careful of your wives, being thoughtful of their needs and honoring them as the weaker sex. Remember that you and your wife are partners in receiving God's blessings, and if you don't *treat her as you should, your prayers will not get ready answers.*

"Chivalry may be dead, but every husband must be a "knight in shining armor" who treats his wife like a princess. (By the way, the name Sarah means "princess.") Peter did not suggest that a wife is "the weaker vessel" mentally, morally, or spiritually, but rather physically. There are exceptions, of course, but generally speaking, the man is the stronger of the two when it comes to physical accomplishments."
—Warren Wiersbe's "Be" Series: Old & New Testaments

1 Corinthians 7:3—5 (NLT) [3]The husband should not deprive his wife of sexual intimacy, which is her right as a married woman, nor should the wife deprive her husband. [4]The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband also gives authority over his body to his wife. [5]So do not deprive each other of sexual relations. The only exception to this rule would be the agreement of both husband and wife to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time, so they can give themselves more completely to prayer. Afterward they should come together again so that Satan won't be able to tempt them because of their lack of self-control.

Marriage is more than just living at the same address. It is a physical relationship shared between one man and one woman. Sex should never be used to manipulate one another for selfish gain. Nor should it be withheld as a source of punishment.

"Using your superior strength and experience in her behalf, and thus honouring her by becoming her protector and support. But the word τιμη honor, signifies maintenance as well as respect;—maintain, provide for the wife." —Adam Clarke's Commentary on the New Testament

1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV) If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

It is the man's responsibility to and provide for the material needs of his wife and family. It is the wife's responsibility to manage the internal affairs of the home, caring for the needs of the family. While there are times when the wife may work outside the home to assist the family it is important that extended *role reversal* be avoided.

** This study is a product of Renewal Ministries of Colorado Springs – www.renewalcs.org

Note: This sections deals with issues that are very sensitive and controversial. What does scripture mean when it talks about submission? What are the limits of submission? (And other significantly tough subjects.) Because of this, it's important to read through and talk through the whole section. It feels longer than the Husband's Responsibilities because it is. But this is not because one set of responsibilities is heavier than the other, but that one set is more controversial.

The Wife's Responsibilities

1 Peter 3:1–2, Verse-by-verse, Part 1

Pastor George Stahnke, 10/03/2004

The biblical teaching of submission on the part of the wife to the husband may be the least popular and most misunderstood concept in society today. The bible does not teach the general suppression of women under men. Nor does the principle of submission require a woman to become a doormat.

1 Peter 3:1—6 (NIV) [1]Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, [2]when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. [3]Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. [4]Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. [5]For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, [6]like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

Submission does not mean inferiority.

Biblical submission does not mean that a woman is in any way inferior to a man. Both have equal value and standing as God's children. One is not superior over the other!

- There is equality in Christ: **Galatians 3:28 (NIV)** There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus
- Mutual submission to each other: **Ephesians 5:21 (TMNT)** Out of respect for Christ, be courteously reverent to one another.
- Humility is the key to submission: **Philippians 2:3-4 (NASB)** [3]Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; [4]do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

"Pursue excellence as a mother, but pursue it also as a person, a wife and a woman gifted by God." —Diane Mandt Langberg, Ph.D., Marriage Partnership, Vol. 9, no. 1.

Submission has its limits in marriage.

"Christianity Today did an extensive study of battered Christian woman, and they found that two-thirds of these women believe that it was their Christian responsibility to endure their husbands' violence and that in so doing they would be expressing a commitment both to God and to their husbands. Fifty-five percent noted that their husbands had said that if they would only be more submissive, then the

violence would stop. And one-third of these women believed their husbands, believing that their submission was the key to resolving domestic violence. It is not. It is not the key."

—Marlin Vis, "Battered into Submission," Preaching Today, Tape No. 134.

A word about living with an unbeliever.

1 Corinthians 7:12—16 (NLT) [12]Now, I will speak to the rest of you, though I do not have a direct command from the Lord. If a Christian man has a wife who is an unbeliever and she is willing to continue living with him, he must not leave her. [13]And if a Christian woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he is willing to continue living with her, she must not leave him. [14]For the Christian wife brings holiness to her marriage, and the Christian husband brings holiness to his marriage. Otherwise, your children would not have a godly influence, but now they are set apart for him. [15](But if the husband or wife who isn't a Christian insists on leaving, let them go. In such cases the Christian husband or wife is not required to stay with them, for God wants his children to live in peace.) [16]You wives must remember that your husbands might be converted because of you. And you husbands must remember that your wives might be converted because of you.

Wives submit to your husbands.

Peter is describing a dived home. This is a marital situation where the wife has become a Christian and her husband remains a non-believer.

1 Peter 3:1a (AMP) IN LIKE manner, you married women, be submissive to your own husbands [subordinate yourselves as being secondary to and dependent on them, and adapt yourselves to them], so that even if any do not obey the Word [of God], they may be won over not by discussion but by the [godly] lives of their wives,

"When a Christian wife interacted with an unbelieving husband, she needed to be submissive according to cultural norms in order to save her marriage and sometimes even her life. But she ought not participate in her husband's pagan religion or submit to actions that dishonored God. …Submission does not mean inferiority or blind obedience. A wife who accepts her husband's authority is accepting the relationship that God has designed and giving her husband leadership and responsibility." —Life Application Bible Commentary

Ephesians 5:22 (AMP) Wives, be subject (be submissive and adapt yourselves) to your own husbands as [a service] to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:33 (AMP) However, let each man of you [without exception] love his wife as [being in a sense] his very own self; and let the wife see that she respects {and} reverences her husband [that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly].

Colossians 3:18 (AMP) Wives, be subject to your husbands [subordinate and adapt yourselves to them], as is right {and} fitting {and} your proper duty in the Lord.

"*The command does not require women to be subordinate to men in general but to their husbands as a function of order within the home. A wife is to accept her place in the family under the leadership of her husband whom God has placed as head in the home."*

—The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament

Your words alone will not persuade him.

1 Peter 3:1b (AMP) ...they may be won over not by discussion but by the [godly] lives of their wives,

1 Peter 3:1b (NIV) ...they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives,

Peter in trying to give hope to the wife says that the unbelieving husband may be won over (yielding his life to Christ). It is not by her persuasive conversation, compelling arguments, frustrated pleading or nagging words but by how she quietly lives her life before him. Actions speak louder that words.

The testimony of pure & reverent conduct.

1 Peter 3:1b — 2 (NASB) ...they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, [2]as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

The unbelieving husband needs to observe (look upon or inspect) the behavior of his believing wife.

1 Peter 3:2 (AMP) When they observe the pure {and} modest way in which you conduct yourselves, together with your reverence [for your husband; you are to feel for him all that reverence includes: to respect, defer to, revere him--to honor, esteem, appreciate, prize, and, in the human sense, to adore him, that is, to admire, praise, be devoted to, deeply love, and enjoy your husband].

Chaste: **G53** ἁγνός hagnos *hag-nos'* properly *clean*, that is, (figuratively) *innocent*, *modest*, *perfect*:—chaste, clean, pure. From the same as G40 ἅγιος hagios *hag'-ee-os*; (physically *pure*, morally *blameless* or *religious*, ceremonially *consecrated*)
—Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

Titus 2:3—5 (NASB) [3]Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, [4]so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, [5]*to be* sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

Sensible: **G4998** σώφρων sōphrōn *so'-frone* —Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

Curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled, temperate —Thayer's Greek Definitions

1 Peter 2:12 (TMNT) Live an exemplary life among the natives (pagans NIV) so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they'll be won over to God's side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives. (note added)

1 Peter 2:12 (AMP) Conduct yourselves properly (honorably, righteously) among the Gentiles, so that, although they may slander you as evildoers, [yet] they may by witnessing your good deeds [come to] glorify God in the day of inspection [when God shall look upon you wanderers as a pastor or shepherd looks over his flock].

Ruth Graham said it was a great day in her life when she realized it was not her job to change her husband. She said "It was my job to love Billy and God's job to change him."
—Robert Russell, "Releasing Resentment," Preaching Today, Tape No. 136.

The wife's Responsibilities

Verse-by-verse, Part 2

1 Peter 3:1—6 (NIV) [1]Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, [2]when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. [3]Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. [4]Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. [5]For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, [6]like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

The drive for outward beauty

1 Peter 3:3 (AMP) Let not yours be the [merely] external adorning with [elaborate] interweaving {and} knotting of the hair, the wearing of jewelry, or changes of clothes;

"The apostle refers here to a propensity which exists in the heart of woman to seek that which would be esteemed ornamental, or that which will appear well in the sight of others, and commend us to them. The desire of this is laid deep in human nature and therefore, when properly regulated is not wrong....The apostle does not say that she should wholly neglect her personal appearance, for she has no more right to be offensive to her husband by neglecting her personal appearance, than by a finical attention to it. Religion promotes neatness, and cleanliness, and a proper attention to our external appearance according to our circumstances in life, as certainly as it does to the internal virtue of the soul." —Barnes' Notes on the New Testament

1 Timothy 2:9—10 (GWT) [9]I want women to show their beauty by dressing in appropriate clothes that are modest and respectable. Their beauty will be shown by what they do, not by their hair styles or the gold jewelry, pearls, or expensive clothes they wear. [10]This is what is proper for women who claim to have reverence for God.

The value of inward beauty

1 Peter 3:3—4 (NASB) [3]Your adornment must not be *merely* external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; [4]but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

"Instead of only adorning themselves on the outside, Christian women should let their adornment (the center focus of their beauty) be the inner self. In other words, their beauty should come from inside—the inner nature and personality, the attitudes, thoughts, and motivations that are revealed in words and actions. For believers, this inner self has been transformed by the Holy Spirit."
—Life Application Bible Commentary: 1 Peter 3:4

While a man may be sexually aroused by outward beauty it is short lived at best. It is the inward beautiful of a woman's spirit that will command admiration and respect and win him over.

Ornament of a meek and quiet spirit—*Of a calm temper; a contented mind; a heart free from*

The holy woman of history

1 Peter 3:5 (NIV) For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands,

These women were characterized by steadfast trust or hope in God.

They adorned themselves with a meek and quiet spirit

1 Peter 3:5a (GWT) After all, this is how holy women who had confidence in God expressed their beauty in the past.

1 Peter 3:4 (AMP) But let it be the inward adorning {and} beauty of the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible {and} unfading charm of a gentle and peaceful spirit, which [is not anxious or wrought up, but] is very precious in the sight of God.

Respecting the husbands authority

1 Peter 3:6 (AMP) It was thus that Sarah obeyed Abraham [following his guidance and acknowledging his headship over her by] calling him lord (master, leader, authority). And you are now her true daughters if you do right and let nothing terrify you [not giving way to hysterical fears or letting anxieties unnerve you].

Peter is referring to Genesis 18:12 where Abraham and Sarah are told by the angle that they will have a son in their old age. Peter is not saying that woman are to be dominated or lorded over.

Genesis 18:12 (NASB) Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"

"First, it is not being implied that this submission extends to giving up the practice of the Christian faith or compromising the standards of holy living laid down by Jesus. These women are to continue to "hope in God" and "do what is right." Their husbands, being unconverted, may in fact threaten them with punishment or divorce, demanding that they not go to the church gatherings or that they practice something Christ has forbidden, but these women are not to "give way to fear." Suffering for the name of Christ is honored in 1 Peter. Yet like all of those to whom 1 Peter is written, they should suffer because they are committed to Christ, not because they have broken cultural standards of which Christ would approve. In other words, what we see here is that the submission of these women is not to be absolute. They have submitted to Christ first of all. That is the one absolute submission. Now they follow him and submit to their husbands. Their culture demanded absolute submission to their husbands, including in matters of religion. This epistle is calling for them to take an independent stand on religion and morality, but to be model wives in every other way, which means that Christ would not be blamed for what was not truly the result of obedience to him." —Hard Sayings of the Bible

If we were to get married, I would feel respected when…

As Your Husband I Feel Respected When…

After carefully reading each statement rate each of section on a scale of 1 – 5
1 = never, 2 = seldom, 3 = sometimes, 4 = often, 5 = always

Write your score for each item to the left

Conquests: I feel you are appreciating my pursuits in my field (my desire to work and achieve) when you:

___ tell me "thanks" for going to work everyday for the family
___ cheer my successes whether in business or in sports
___ ask me to talk about my dreams like you asked when we dated

Hierarchy: I feel you are appreciating my position as an overseer (my desire to protect and provide and even die for you) when you:

___ say to me "I really do look up to you for feeling responsible for me"
___ tell me you are deeply touched by the thought that "I'd die for you"
___ praise my commitment to provide, i.e. "bring home the bacon."

Authority: I feel you're appreciating my power on your behalf (my desire to be strong, to lead, and make decisions) when you:

___ tell me I'm strong as you squeeze my muscle (it's symbolic)
___ praise my good decisions
___ honor my authority in front of the kids and differ with me in private

Insight: I feel you are appreciating my perspective and proposals (my desire to analyze and counsel) when you:

___ thank me for my advice and knowledge
___ let me fix things and applaud my solution orientation
___ tell me up-front you need "an ear" to listen and not a solution

Relationship: I feel you are valuing my partnership and pastimes (my desire for a shoulder to shoulder friendship) when you:

___ tell me you like me
___ do recreational activities with me, or watch me do them
___ encourage alone time for me; this energizes me to re-connect with you later

Sexuality: I feel you are appreciating my passions and pleasures (my desire for sexual intimacy) when you:

___ initiate periodically
___ respond more often
___ let me acknowledge my sexual temptations without shaming me or feeling shamed

** This survey is a product of Love and Respect Ministries, Inc. – www.loveandrespect.com

If we were to get married, I would feel loved when…

As Your Wife I Feel Loved When...

After carefully reading each statement rate each section on a scale of 1 – 5
1 = never, 2 = seldom, 3 = sometimes, 4 = often, 5 = always

Write your score for each item to the left

Closeness: I feel a closeness with you (face to face and heart to heart) when you:
___ hold my hand
___ hug me
___ are affectionate without sexual intentions.

Openness: I feel an openness with you (you are not secretly mad) when you:
___ share your feelings
___ tell me about your day and challenges
___ talk without harshness, guardedness, or grunting.

Understanding: I feel you understand me (empathize with me) when you:
___ listen to me (know when to give advice and not solve my problems)
___ repeat back what I sometimes say so I know you're hearing me
___ express appreciation for my contribution and roles saying, "I couldn't do your job."

Peacemaking: I feel at peace with you (issues are resolved) when you:
___ admit you are wrong and apologize by saying "I am sorry" (a turn on to a woman)
___ keep the relationship up to date, resolve the unresolved, and don't say, "forget it"
___ pray together after a hurtful time.

Loyalty: I feel a loyalty from you (complete commitment) when you:
___ don't look at other women
___ speak only positive things about me before family and friends; no airing dirty laundry
___ do not bring up the "D" word (Divorce) but are committed till death do us part

Esteem: I feel esteemed by you (treasured above others) when you:
___ verbally support and honor me in front of the children
___ praise me for what I do for you
___ value my opinion in the gray areas; not wrong just different from you.

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