

## The Book of First Peter

### "The Bull in the China Shop"

1 Peter 3:7-9

#### Introduction:

1. There is an abysmal ignorance amongst husbands concerning their divinely ordained responsibilities in the home.

2. The argument of Peter has been laid down with force: submission or order is the rule in many areas of living: personally (2:11, 12), civilly (2:13-15), maritally for the wife (3:1-6), and for the husband (3:7). The summation of it all is given in vv. 8 and 9 of this chapter.

3. Consider, in the first instance, the call of God to husbands. There are three significant exhortations to them:

#### 1. Concerning habitation. v. 7.

a. The need for co-habitation. Gen. 2:24.

Husbands who are such are to find their places in their own homes. Separation is unbiblical.

b. The need for wise conduct.

This concerns every phase of the home life. It must not be limited to the physical or the spiritual.

#### 2. Concerning consideration. v. 7.

In a sense this is somewhat epexegetical for it gives details to wise conduct for a husband in the home with his wife.

A buttressing thought here is that the husband is to "give honor" to his wife. The Greek verb

here means to "assign honor." It carries the idea of being apportioned something. The wife is not to pre-empt any position of honor, but to get it by assignment. This participle is parallel with the one for "dwelling" above.

Peter provides two reasons for this arrangement in the home:

- a. The weakness of the wife. This adequately notes that the "bull" is living in a "china shop." The woman is a vase that shatters easily. This is a truth not because of the marriage situation, but because of creation--her femaleness.
- b. The togetherness of the couple. The "grace of life" really means "the good things of life." Since the wife is to share in this, let the husband apportion her a fair share!

### 3. Concerning realization. v. 7.

The believing husband who pays attention to the exhortations herein given will find his prayers are not cut in upon. If a man has married to get a galley slave, a full-time baby sitter, a nurse, or a laundress--how can he expect his prayers to be answered. Is this perhaps one large reason why so many husbands live below normal in prayers answered???

### Conclusion:

Husbands, let us engage in some real self-appraisal. In the first instance, if you are not saved--believe on the Lord so that you can act like a Christian. Then, as a believing husband start living with your wife as though you were living with a delicate vase. Stop downgrading her and assign her a place of honor. Then you can pray and expect God to do something for you!