

THE COUNSELOR'S COUCH: A Showoff Marriage

1 PETER 3:1-7

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■ Central Church

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■ Social Media: #Counselor'sCouch

Marriage is Designed to Showoff Things Greater than Marriage:

1. Show off a Brilliant _____ (1 Pet. 3:1,7; Gen. 2:20-23).

2. Show off a United _____ (Gen. 1:27-28; Ecc. 4:9-12; 1 Cor 16:19).

3. Show off a Gospel _____ (1-7).
 - a. Wives: Be Determined to _____ a Difficult Husband (1-6).

 - b. Husbands: Be Driven to _____ a Co-heir Wife (7).

1 Peter 3:1-7 (ESV)

“Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives,² when they see your respectful and pure conduct.³ Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—⁴ but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.⁵ For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands,⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

⁷ Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.”

Biblical Counseling Homework:

1. Get a babysitter & pick a date night. Discuss the convicting areas of this first counseling session over dinner. Use the discussion questions on the back.
2. Memorize Ephesians 4:31-32.
3. Men, ask your wife what you can do to be more honoring?
4. Women, ask your husband what you can do to be more attractional?
5. Brainstorm about how you will start serving as a couple on mission?
6. Pray this prayer with each other every day: *“Father-God, if our marriage will ever convey the glory of the gospel, we need your help. Would you protect my mouth from speaking evil? Would you help me to love, honor, and cherish my spouse above myself? Please, create in us a marriage that displays something MORE than marriage. Help us find a place to serve on mission together. By faith we look for the answer in Jesus’s name we pray, Amen.”*

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. How does the world define beauty, and what's worth admiring? How does the Bible determine what is most beautiful and admirable? What does the world say a beautiful marriage is, and how does that differ from God's design for marriage?
2. As both men and women, in what ways do we focus too much on the externals tied to clothing, possessions, looks, wealth, status, etc., rather than on following and looking like Christ?
3. One of the ways we embrace God's design for marriage is a unity of mission. Pastor Matt gave multiple examples of couples embracing a mission together. What are some ways you are currently living or planning to be united in mission as a couple?
4. Peter gives two instructions to husbands in this verse: (1) live with your wives in an understanding way, and (2) show honor to her as a woman. How are these two instructions distinct from one another? In what ways are they connected?
5. **Read Eph. 5:25-33 and Col. 3:19.** How does a husband's leading, honoring, understanding, caring, and sacrificing for his wife display the Gospel message that Peter has been explaining? How might both good and bad examples of living out this verse affect how we or others understand God?
6. Husbands, what is one area in which you could seek to understand your wife better? How can you honor your wife? Wives, what is an area in which you would like your husband to seek a better understanding of you and seek to honor you?

If you have just become a Christian, text "Jesus" to (901) 444-3890. We will reach out to answer questions or help you take the "next steps" in your relationship with Jesus.

Quote for the Week. . .
by R.C. Sproul



"To submit to anyone less than Christ is difficult in a marriage. Yet it is Christ who commands women to be submissive to their sinful, fallible husbands. In this sense Christ is the silent partner of the marriage. It is hard for a wife to submit when she disagrees with her husband. But when she knows her submission is an act of obedience to Christ and honors Christ, it is much less difficult."