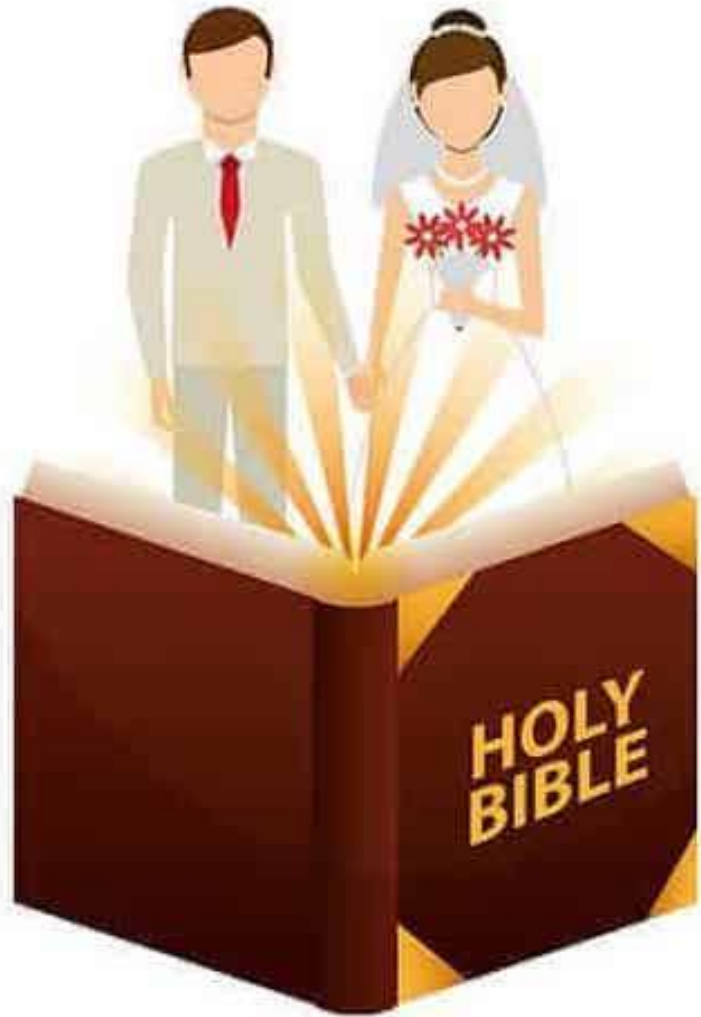


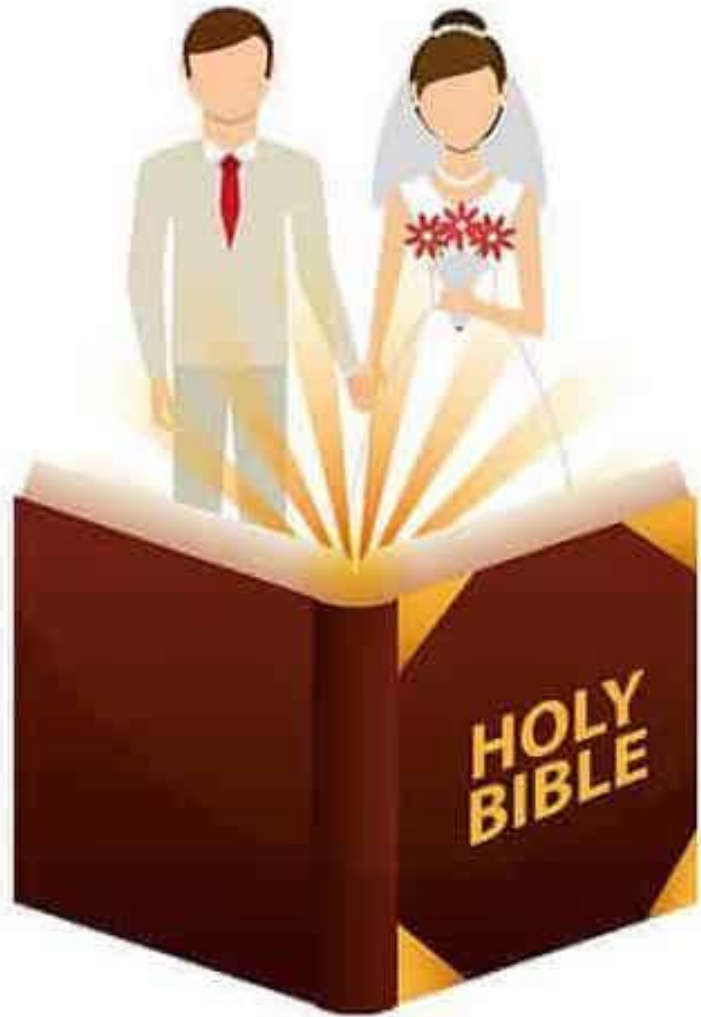
The Power of Spirituality in the Home



1 Peter 3:1-7

*“... as being heirs
together of the
grace of life”*

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1 Peter 3:1-7

¹ Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without the word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, ² when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. ³ Do not let your adornment be merely outward – arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel – ⁴ rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. ⁵ For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror. ⁷ Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Spirituality & the Home

- Spirituality is defined as follows:
 - *“of or relating to sacred matters”*
 - *“concerned with religious values”*
- As with all aspects of a Christian’s life, our families must focus on spiritual things
 - Educate all in God’s truth regarding all things
 - Use every opportunity to instill Bible values
 - Provide atmosphere conducive to godliness
 - Exemplify the life of Christ daily before others
 - Show priority given to spiritual over material
 - Help one another get to heaven

Review Spirituality in 1 Pet. 3:1-7

- Wife to act in a way that would lead husband to obey word “even if” he does not heed word itself
 - Behavior is to be chaste with fear (reverence)
 - Incorruptible adornment of meek & quiet spirit
 - Follow example of holy ones who hoped in God
 - Stress not on view of world, but view of God
- Husband to see wife as joint-heir of grace of life
 - Prayers hindered by failure to fulfill responsibility
- Emphasis throughout on service guided by truth
- Must have an eternal view of others in family
- God designed family to assist each other to heaven

Bible LOVE Is Foundational to All Spiritual Matters

- Basic to character & nature of God (**1 John 4:7-8, 16**)
- Love is basis of motivation for spiritual action (**Mark 12:28-30**)
 - Not first in order of commandments given
 - Jesus' answer not found in the summation of Mosaic law (*Ten Commandments*)
 - Refers not to “first” in number, but “first” in sense of that which is foundational
 - Not that some things are necessary & some unnecessary, but some prepare for others
 - This fact is clearly seen in the conclusion of Jesus' answer (**Matthew 22:40**)
- Nature of biblical love is opposite to evil (**Romans 12:9**)

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

⁴ Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Nature of Bible LOVE (*agape*)

- Patient
- Kind
- Not envious
- Not boastful
- Not arrogant
- Not rude
- Not selfish
- Not easily angered
- Keeps no account of wrongs suffered
- Takes no pleasure in evil
- Rejoices with the truth
- Bears, believes, hopes and endures all things

Not How I Feel

But What I Do

Absence of Bible LOVE Breeds Abundance of Trouble

- What produces “times of stress”? (**2 Tim. 3:1-5**)
 - “Perilous times” (NKJV); “Terrible times” (NIV)
- Love present is opposite of Bible love
 - “*Lovers of Self*” (beginning of problem)
 - “*Lovers of Money*”
 - “*No Lovers of Good*”
 - “*Lovers of Pleasure*” rather than loving God
- Effects of non-biblical love
 - Given to selfish desires and materialism
 - Given to violence and rebellion
 - Given to hedonism and sensual desires
 - Ignorant of & antagonistic to the truth

Power of Bible LOVE Is Exemplified in Spiritually Focused Families

- It is the “bond of perfectness” (**Colossians 3:14**)
- Essential for us to have fulness of God (**Eph. 3:14-19**)
- Seen in love of Jacob for Rachel
 - **Genesis 29:20**
 - **Genesis 2:20-24**
- Seen in home of Abraham
 - **Hebrews 11:8-19**
 - **Genesis 18:19**
- Secondary lesson in **Ephesians 5:22-33** is illustrated by primary lesson – Spiritual love of Christ & church

Are We Teaching Spirituality If We...

- Do not live same message of chastity we teach?
- Fail to require proper separation of men & women?
 - *Whether with private meetings of adults*
 - *Or allowance for parking & petting of young*
- Allow swimsuits, shorts, skin-tight clothes, etc?
- Establish no rules for clothing in our homes?
- Excuse revealing formal wear & dress clothes?
- Let young people go to dances & proms?
- Wink at social drinking that tears down restraint?

Teaching & Learning Spirituality Is A Serious Responsibility

- Serious for husband & father as head
- Serious for wife & mother serving as example
- Serious for grandparents who seek to establish and encourage the keeping of a good name
- Serious for child & sibling as one who learns, grows, sets path & provides example to others
- We either help our family towards heaven or hell – which am I doing?
- We will all answer before God for our actions

Put Power of Spirituality in Home

