

# Alton Baptist Church e-Service 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021

## Wives and Husbands

We share again in fellowship whether in person or online. We have the opportunity to spend time praising, worshiping and giving thanks to a faithful God. We rejoice that we can be encouraged by the songs, the prayers and the scriptures as this builds us up in a greater love and knowledge of the Lord.

Lamentations 3: 22 – 23

“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

**Song:** Great is Thy faithfulness

“Blessings all mine with, with ten thousand beside!”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_iDuMoA9lxE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_iDuMoA9lxE)

**Prayer:**

Father we thank you for your faithfulness shown in so many ways to us. Forgive us when we so easily forget to recognise your goodness to us and fail to give you the honour and praise due to you as our creator God. We ask that you will be with us by the power of your Holy Spirit as we spend time with you and that you will encourage us in our daily walk with You and fit us to serve your purposes in our life. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Psalm 57: 10 – 11

“For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches the skies. Be exulted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.”

**Song:** I will give thanks to Thee

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYSy6uOGyA>

As we come to our time of prayer I read recently this comment about prayer that I found helpful. “Prayer is to secure God’s purposes, many of which remain obscured to my human understanding. I pray, as I live, by faith and not by sight.” May God’s purposes be fulfilled in the following situations.

### **Intercessory Prayer:**

You might like to remember these in your prayers during the week as well.

Let us pray for this hurting world remembering those devastated by floods in Europe and China, for people in North America suffering from extreme heat, for those in the Middle East and parts of Africa fearing for their lives because of terrorism and war and for people who have become refugees.

We ask for God to be with all those who serve in our nation in the delivering of our goods and services, by providing our food through farming activity, for providing care and medical support for those in need, for those who provide voluntary help in a variety of ways, the police and for those in national and local government. Let us never take for granted or abuse those who work hard in their employment.

Let us pray for the proclamation of the gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ in the church in our country so that people can come to faith. This will bring healing to our nation.

Let us remember those within the church at Alton and bring our personal petitions and requests to the Lord.

**Song:** The Lord's my shepherd  
I will trust in you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN4tPkX0MG0>

### **Prayer:**

Father as we study your Word regarding the importance of building relationships with You and each other especially in the marriage relationship that the Holy Spirit will reveal your Truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

### **Wives and Husbands**

1 Peter 3: 1 – 7 “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 behaviour of their wives, when they see the **purity** and **reverence** of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewellery and fine clothes. 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. 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, 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. Husbands, in the same way be **considerate** as you live with your wives, and treat them with **respect** as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.”

Marriage is important in our society by providing a stable base for a couple to build a mutually supportive and lasting relationship on the foundation of a commitment to one another. Today marriage is under pressure as couples increasingly cohabit and we do not talk about wives and husbands but often refer to a person sharing a relationship as a partner. Many marriages experience marital problems and end in divorce, sadly this can occur in Christian marriages too. In this passage Peter is addressing issues that relate to the time he is writing his letter nevertheless there are principles that are relevant to marriage today.

In verse 7 Peter is referring to 1 Peter 2: 21- 25 “To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you **an example**, that you should follow in his step. ‘He **committed no sin**, and **no deceit was found in his mouth**.’ When they hurled their insults at him **he did not retaliate**; when he suffered, **he made no threats**. Instead, **he entrusted himself to him who judges justly**. **He himself bore our sins in his body** on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; **by his wounds you have been healed**. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the **Shepherd and Overseer of your souls**.”

These verses outline the way Jesus was submissive and obedient to God’s will thus providing an example for both wives and husbands. Look at the points highlighted in red and we see that if we adopt such an approach in our lives we will faithfully fulfil His purposes in our lives in particular in the intimate and close relationship of marriage because it is selfless and submissive to the will of God in our lives. Being submissive is not weakness it is challenging. Peter addresses the issue whereby a woman may become a believer and the husband is not and so he indicates the attributes whereby they might be won over and come to Christ. He indicates in verse one that the behaviour of the wife is crucial it won’t be with words necessarily. It is more often by our actions that a person is brought to the Lord. He goes on to indicate the kind of lifestyle that should be seen in her life however these are aspects that should be seen in all Christians. They are: -

- ❖ **Purity and reverence.** Purity is defined as pureness, cleanness and freedom from physical or moral pollution. We know that sin pollutes our lives but as it is mentioned in 1 Peter 2: 24 “He himself bore our sins ....., **so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness.**” Through our trust in the Lord and the power of the Holy Spirit we can live lives that are pure and when we fail we can receive forgiveness. People will watch us and they have expectations as to how Christians should live and we need to be good examples. 1 Timothy 4: 12 states, “but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love in faith and in **purity.**” In the close relationship of marriage both the wife and the husband have their lives opened up to each other and in that intimacy they will see the pureness in each other. The aspect of reverence is that of the wife showing respect as indicated in Ephesians 5: 33 “the wife must respect her husband.” This will call for trust in the husband because part of his responsibility is that of making decisions that will affect his wife. In verse 6 an example is given as to the way Sarah showed respect for it states, “like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master.” This can be challenging for a wife as it might be seen as a sign of weakness but it is a way of encouraging the husband in his leadership role and fulfils scripture as given in Ephesians 5: 22 “Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church.”
- ❖ **“The unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit.”** What a wonderful quality this is when we live in times whereby women aggressively demand their rights and where self can so easily dominate. We also live in a society where women also seek to promote themselves in their appearance. A husband is naturally proud of a wife who is attractive but outward attraction based on hairstyle, jewellery and clothing is a fading beauty. True beauty that lasts and develops is an inner spiritual beauty that is of great worth in God’s sight. Gentleness is one of the fruits of the spirit and when it is demonstrated by a woman in a marriage it brings calmness into the whole relationship with her husband. It is not being subservient but shows a high level of self-control and respect.

We then turn to verse 7 that relates to husbands. Ephesians 5 also gives guidance to husbands in verse 25, “Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.” And in in 28, “In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.” The love of a husband for his wife should be in accord with the love shown by Jesus and we know that Jesus is the source of all

love. So Jesus provides an example for the husband to follow. In also stating that the husband should show the love to his wife that he has for himself indicates the oneness of the relationship that there is in marriage.

Guidance is given as to how the husband can show his love to his wife. Firstly he is to be **considerate**. Marriage is a partnership and therefore the husband should take into account the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of his wife as he lives with her. In order to do this it is essential to spend time with each other and communicate well. Secondly he must treat his wife with **respect**. This requires him to be sensitive to her feelings, thinking and desires and whilst he may not agree with her ideas he must nevertheless respect them. Regarding women as the weaker partner, I like the way one commentary addressed this. "The husband should treat his wife like an expensive, beautiful, fragile vase, in which is a precious treasure."

Finally there is the wonderful aspect of being heirs together of the gracious gift of life. Not everyone gets married but for many of those who do they can appreciate this very special relationship between a man and a woman as experiencing life in all its fullness and recognising this as a gift from God. In closing this passage the importance of prayer is mentioned as Peter does not want anything to hinder the prayer life of a husband and wife. Prayer helps bind a couple together and aids the fellowship of kindred minds as together they seek the will of God in their marriage.

**Prayer:**

Father we thank You for the gift of marriage and for the teaching that comes from your Word that gives guidance on how we should live our lives in the relationships we have with one another. Amen

**Song:** Blest be the tie that binds

The fellowship of kindred minds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkncqxPZkUg>

Blessing: Jude 24 -25

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore!

Amen