Husbands, love your wives … (Eph 5:25)

Part two

What does *“I Love My Wife”* look like? I Peter 3:7 says - Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life…

“According to knowledge …”

I am not sure I understand everything that phrase means, but I know some of what it means, and I know some of what it does not mean. I hear men say it is hard to understand their wife. Sometimes we are right. Most of the time we use it as an excuse. I am not focusing on the times when we have no idea what we did wrong. I am focusing on the times we know what we did wrong or what we should have done right and do not care.

Do you know something that your wife enjoys? What do we do with that knowledge? Do we know somethings that our wives do not like? What do we do with that knowledge? Trust me, do the things you know she likes and you will reduce the number of times you are in “hot water”. We get upset that our wives fail to meet our needs, but do we meet theirs? Our problem is not what I don’t know about my wife. Our problem is what we do with the knowledge we DO have of our wife.

I have found the problem – and it is us!

“Giving honor unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel …”

For some of you who pay close attention to details – you noticed I dropped a comma. If you didn’t – feel free to take a minute and look it up.

I love the way my late pastor would read it. Giving honor unto your wife as a finer vessel. I think that paints the picture clearer for us men. He described men as mason jars. Very rugged. Useful to store bolts, pickles, or to drink iced tea. You can use it to drink some tea while you mow the grass and when it is empty, toss it in the grass and pick it up when you are done.

But a wife is a fine lead crystal goblet. You can use it to store bolts but why would you? Iced tea taste special when you use the goblet. You would never throw it in the grass until you finish mowing. You might stop mowing and sit on the deck to the drink the tea that is in a goblet. That is showing honor towards the holder of tea. That is not treating it like it a cracked or fragile. Fine lead crystal is more durable than glass. It is also more valuable.

We stick mason jars in the garage or in the attic. We put crystal goblets in a glass case. We show it off. We are proud of it. Do you show off your wife? Are you proud of her? Do you value her enough to stop mowing, or watching TV, or puttering in the garage and enjoy what she has to offer?

I read about how to check a goblet to see if it is just glass or fine lead crystal. One of the ways that jumped out at me it to hold it up to the light. You can tell that it is crystal if it creates a rainbow prism effect. If it doesn’t, then you are holding just a plain glass. Crystals with over 35% lead will actually sparkle in light.

Wow! Did you catch that? When our wives are held up to The Light (Jesus), she can create a rainbow of color like a prism does. Can we see her sparkle?

If you tap the goblet and you hear a musical ring with a little bit of echo, then it is crystal. Wet your finger and gently swipe it around the rim. What do you hear?

Wow! Did you catch that? When we touch our wives does she ring with beautiful music?

Now I know some of you are going to say – my wife is not crystal; she is just glass. Did you think that when you were dating? Or did she become “just glass” because of how you treat her? Is your goal to show her as valuable or has she just become common.

I want to live with my wife seeking to understand what she values. I need to treasure her as a valuable vessel. I need to show her off to people in the light of Jesus’ love. I need to touch her with gentleness and grace to bring out the beautiful music she has in her soul.

Why?

First, because we are joint heirs of God’s grace. Second, so my prayers are not hindered (I Peter 3: 7b).

There may be some woman out there who is so damaged by the way men have treated her over her lifetime, that she cannot learn to respond to true love when it is lavishly displayed towards her, but I seriously doubt it. It may take years to undo the conditioned response she has learned but she is made in the image of God and she is capable of accepting love. It is up to us to display true love.