

What are the greatest obstacles that Christian husbands have to overcome to fulfill these responsibilities?

Application

4. In our messages in 1 Peter, we've often said that we need to see God in the trials and suffering if we are to be successful in living our lives in a godly manner. Read Matthew 20:25-28. Jesus talks about his way of leadership versus the world's. How would the truth of that passage transform marriage partners from competitors to collaborators whether-or-not there is a spiritual mismatch? List some other relationships and how that might affect your life.

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SURVIVING THE STORM

TOPICS: HUSBANDS, WIVES, SPIRITUAL MISMATCH

WITHOUT A WORD

1 Peter 3:1-7

“All of [our happy, eye-to-eye unity] ended after I became a Christian. I was developing a Christian worldview – seeing everything through scriptural lenses – and he was filtering everything through the lenses we had both formerly worn... Clashes were inevitable, and they came with increasing frequency and intensity.”¹

Leslie Strobel

When the struggles hit home

Struggles at home are often more rude and hurtful because ...

We **expect more** out of those we are closest to and we take liberties in the way we **talk, act, and take people for granted**

When a wife gets excited about Jesus Christ

(1 Pet. 3:1-6; Eph. 5:21-24; Col. 3:18; 1 Cor. 7:12-14)

In spiritual mismatch, what doesn't help is **preaching, arguing, or judging.**

¹ *Surviving a Spiritual Mismatch in Marriage*. Strobel, Lee & Leslie. Zondervan, p. 34.

What does help is a quiet spirit, a godly response, and a beautiful spirit.

Abandoning false guilt

“If there’s no response, it must be my fault.”

“If I’m faithful long enough, guaranteed: he’ll come around.”

When husbands get excited about Jesus

(1 Peter 3:7; Eph 5:25; Col 3:19; 1 Cor 7:12-14)

They don’t demand external compliance, they seek to encourage internal change by their sacrificial living.

In a revolutionary instruction, men are told to

Live with their wives in an understanding manner, and to treat them with respect.

In godly leadership men often seek to demand authority and control instead of giving love and understanding.

Principles to take home:

You’re not responsible for your spouse; you’re responsible for you.
Spouses are not projects; they’re spouses. Love them.

Getting to Know You

1. If you saw any or all of the royal wedding recently, was there anything that was particularly meaningful or that you really liked about it?

Was there anything that you didn’t like?

Into the Bible

2. Let’s put together some verses. Read 1 Peter 3:1-4; Ephesians 5:21-22, 33; Colossians 3:18. Bundle these passages and give a brief explanation of a wife’s responsibility without using the word submit.

What are the greatest obstacles that Christian wives have to overcome to fulfill this responsibility?

3. Read 1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 5:25, 31; Colossians 3:19; and Matthew 20:25-28. Bundle these passages and give a brief explanation of a husband’s responsibility without using the word lead.