

Own Up! #7

## The Responsibility to Our Family

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

1 Peter 3:1-12

#### Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the many ways in which the roles of a husband and wife have changed in the last two decades.
2. Read 1 Peter 3:1-12. God designed married life. Unfortunately, there are many people who are unhappy in their marriage. Husbands and wives don't treat each other with love and respect. Instead, they model a negative picture of marriage to their children. In this letter to the Christians, Peter spelled out the responsibilities of different members of the family. First, he pointed out the responsibilities of the wife (v. 1-6). God created man and woman with equal importance, but He also designed the family to have specific roles and an order of authority to avoid anarchy. What is the challenge of being a wife (v. 1)? What's the reason why Peter urged wives to submit to their husbands (v. 1-2)? Why do you think a lot of men are not leading in their homes? Discuss what qualities a Christian wife needs to practice in order to witness to their non-Christian husbands.
3. The second responsibility that wives have is to cultivate inner beauty (v. 3-6). Outward appearance should not be the defining factor of genuine beauty. Share examples of how society is so obsessed with outward appearance. What do you think is more effortless, to be beautiful on the outside or from within? Discuss how you can develop a beautiful spiritual character, especially as a wife.
4. Peter also talks about the responsibilities of the husbands in verse 7. The first responsibility is that he should make an effort to understand his wife. What is the challenge of being a husband? What's the reason why husbands should treat their wives with respect?
5. Jesus Christ's love is the best example of how to love unconditionally. He chose to love you while you were still a sinner. How can a husband love unconditionally? If the husband loves this way, what would be the natural response of a wife?
6. The second responsibility of the husband is to honor his wife with respect as the weak one physiologically. Do you think chivalry is lost in today's generation? Nowadays, lots of women are independent. How can men still show consideration and graciousness to women?
7. In your Christian home, does the husband initiate prayer? How might the way a husband treats his wife get in the way of his prayers?
8. Peter also has exhortations for the rest of the family members (v. 7-12). What amazing challenges did Peter give the believers? How is it possible to treat each other with compassion and respect (v. 8), to be a blessing and not an enemy (v.9), to be watchful of what you say because words hurt (v. 10), and to seek peace (v. 11-12)? Share from your experience how you live harmoniously in your home.

### Walk

No one is perfect. God created each person differently and uniquely. You are by nature incompatible with each other. If all people agree on everything, then one of them is unnecessary. What happens when no one is taking his or her responsibility because of entitlement? What happens when parents abdicate their responsibilities to their children? How does forgiveness and unconditional love undergird a good and solid family relationship? What changes do you need to make in your life so that you can enjoy being "happily incompatible" with your husband/wife/family members?

### Worship & Prayer

*Father, thank you for blessing me with family (husband, wife, children, siblings, etc.). It's not always easy living with them, but thank You for Your Word that reminds me of my responsibility to treat them with compassion and respect, to be a blessing to them and not an enemy, to watch what I say, and to seek peace. Enable me, Father, to be a witness of Your love to them. Strengthen and equip me to responsibly take on my role: a man who gently and courageously leads, a woman who humbly and graciously submits, a child who trustingly and willingly obeys. I ask these in Christ's name. Amen.*