

SCC Small Group Discussion
Full Steam Ahead: Maximizing Your Marriage

Derived from a sermon on July 12, 2026 by Dr. Jeff Chandler

Getting Started:

Opener: How would you characterize a healthy marriage?

What are the biggest challenges Christians face today in honoring God through marriage and their other relationships?

Searching the Scriptures:

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7

Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives,² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ³ Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. ⁴ Rather, 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. ⁵ For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, ⁶ like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.⁷ 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.

1. What commands of chapter 3:1-7 do you think were challenging to the culture of Paul's day? Which challenge our own cultural views of marriage today?

2. Why does the willing submission of a wife to her husband not mean that she is inferior to him?

3. How does the character of the wife impact the spiritual life of the husband?

4. In what ways should Peter's instruction about not focusing purely on appearance be carried out today? What makes the inner beauty of godly character imperishable?
5. What are the dangers identified if the wife or husband fails to fulfill his or her marriage responsibilities? How might a person safeguard against these dangers?
6. What is the relationship between a husband's understanding his wife well and honoring her? Why do you think Peter emphasized these aspects of the husband's responsibility to his wife?
7. How does the character and prayer life of the husband impact the spiritual life of the wife?
8. How do the instructions given by Peter compare to the instructions given by Paul in Ephesians 5:22-33? How are they different? How are they similar?

Application

If you are married, what area of your marriage needs the most attention? What needs to change?

Which of the qualities mentioned for either male or female behavior speak to you the most right now? How might applying this make a difference in your relationships?

Get discussion questions in word format & link to Bible App plan for this week at www.sequimcommunitychurch.org/downloads