"As For Me and My Household"
(Non-Christian spouses)
YFC April 7-9 2011

About ourselves….We can't relate to what it feels like to sit in Church without your spouse week after week, you are all heroes. You may be feeling the ache of wanting to have your spouse on the same page worshiping together, singing songs together, family devos, etc.
Sometimes this desire (which is not wrong) can begin to be our main desire. Over time can lead to great discouragement (even depression) that your spouse is not joining you in the most important quest of your life. You may filter every sermon through your spouse's life. *So and so needs to hear this or this verse is for…*
We want to encourage you to focus on your personal growth with God and not your spouse's. The intimacy of your worship with God will increase as you look to God-*not your spouse's presence*-to fill the longings of your heart.

I) In the Same way…

1 Peter was written to call all believers to the same kind of life-faithful obedience to God even during challenging circumstances.
We need a strong relationship with God so we have a deep trust in God.
1 Peter 2:21-23 Jesus entrusted himself to God (who judges justly) he left us an example for us to follow.
1 Peter 3:1 Peter begins with *"in the same way*" … so our hearts should be set with the same attitude as Jesus.

2) Not by words…

1 Peter 3:1-7 it is our behavior that can win over our spouse.

a) ***Submission***: not a statement of value- but of order. Ex-military, putting oneself beneath someone in chain of command. Submission is ultimately To God because we trust God.

How do we act in submission? With a gentle & quiet spirit.
Vs. 5- The holy women of the past were submissive- like Sarah.
An enemy to submission is fear- we may feel vulnerable or wanting to "take control" of the situations we don't like. (Ex: Sarah and Abimilech)

b) ***Purity and reverence: free from being polluted by the world***.

Fighting against the way the world views things:

-“it is just too hard I can’t do it anymore...”
-“He treats me this way and I can’t help my ill temper…”
-“why should I respect him when he doesn’t respect me?”
Be on guard for other temptations to compromise your purity and fear of God.
1 Peter 2:19 we can bear up under if we are conscious of God.

c) Unfading beauty of the inner self-the gentle & quiet spirit

Unfading-Not losing strength. Of course it is important to manage ourselves physically but the focus is our *inner* life.
This kind of beauty is of GREAT WORTH in God’s sight.
{Gentle} in the Greek-refers to amiable friendliness in contrast with roughness, a bad temper, or abrasiveness. Indicates a person will not attack back and that they can endure suffering without the vengeance of bitterness.
{Quiet Spirit} Connotes tranquility, strong character and self-control.

3) Do what is right-Do not give way to fear
Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that our battle is not against the people in our lives but the spiritual forces of evil.
Fear focuses us on the negative.
Doing what is right during opposition or challenging marital times can be very difficult-we all need spiritual support and times to confess and get help.
When you blow it at home- remember to apologize to your spouse and or your children.
*For Men- you are called to be considerate of your wife as you live with them. Be thoughtful of her needs-seek to understand her. Promote and maintain harmony and intimacy in your relationship. Treat her with your best manners.

*if you are a woman-you are put in position to “lead” your home spiritually. This just means taking time to teach your children the bible, praying with them, and bringing them to church with you. Remember your “inner beauty” Reveals God to your children as well.

Practicals:
Place your spouse in God’s hands. Learn to let go and allow the Holy Spirit to work in their heart.-your spouse’s salvation is between him/her and God. There can be incredible peace when we surrender.
Praise your spouse. God’s word instructs us, in Philippians 4:8, to think about whatever is true, noble, pure, lovely, and admirable. Look for opportunities to

praise your spouse. Pray to see the good and point it out. Be very careful how you share about your spouse to others. Resist the urge to make subtle "digs" at them.

Prioritize your spouse. Place your spouse's needs above everyone else-in this way you are honoring them and allowing him to see God through you. Before going out to church events make sure meals are prepared, the house is in order, children's needs are met, etc. It takes extra steps-but worth it and pleasing to God. Helps your spouse see their importance to you.

Pray for your spouse. Pray not only for her/his salvation but for other areas of their life as well. God will soften your heart toward your spouse and help you to love them in a greater way.

Pray with other disciples. Fellowship is vital for all disciples but has an extra meaning for those coming alone. Meets needs of encouragement and support. Find ways to help others as well. It's a comfort not to have to carry the burden alone.