

The “Schemes” of Men

- *Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes. “Eccl. 7:29”*
- *Upright = straight, level, righteous*
- *Schemes = inventions, creating new ideas.*
- *every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Gen 6:5-6 (New Ideas)*
- *The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. Gen 6:11-12 (New Results)*

Darkness = Schemes = New Reality

- *To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace. Lk. 1:79*
- *when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness. Lk 11:34-35*
- *light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. Jn 3:19*
- *When raised in darkness, light is shunned. Light appears as folly, schemes become true wisdom.*
- *aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 1Pet 1:18*

God Knew Children Have No Choice

- Godly parents, ungodly parents, loving parents abusive parents, good or bad examples.
- Broken homes ruled by schemes. Emotionally damaged people married to emotionally damaged people creating after their kind.
- Scarred / damaged people come into the church
- For many new converts, not much time to rise above these things before irreparable damage.
- God wanted a means to help people in darkness influenced by schemes to come out from among them as quickly as possible.

God Gave a New Role Model

- A successful, straight, level and in the light marriage can only be found in Jesus' guidance
- He is the *perfect* husband and the church is the *perfect* light. (Eph. 5:21-33).
- If we can't see that we are still in darkness and still blind, don't know where we are going.
- Jesus can give the sweet success of a joyful and happy marriage to anyone who will listen.

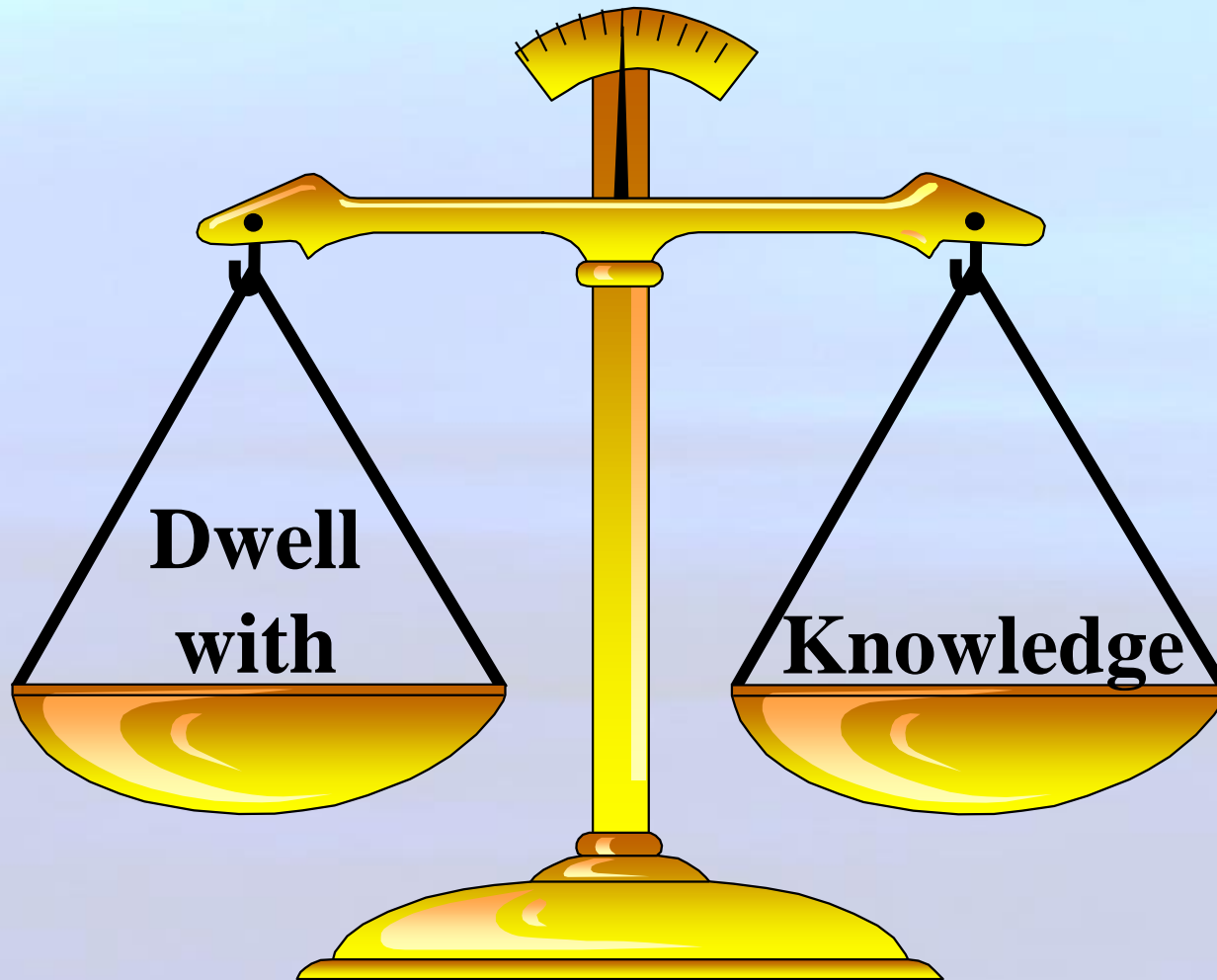
Need A Complete Break to Succeed

- *no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;*
- *22 put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Eph 4:17-23*

From Darkness back into the Light

- *husbands, in like manner, **dwell with (your wives) according to knowledge**, giving honor unto the woman, as unto the weaker vessel, as being also joint-heirs of the grace of life; to the end that your prayers be not hindered. 1Pet. 3:7*
- Not the natural response: Way my father treated my mother or what I feel is right may be dark.
- *“doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves,*
- Some husbands are hearers only when it comes to practicing their knowledge in the home.
- Why elders must rule house well.

***“kata”* – in proportion,
according to the measure of**



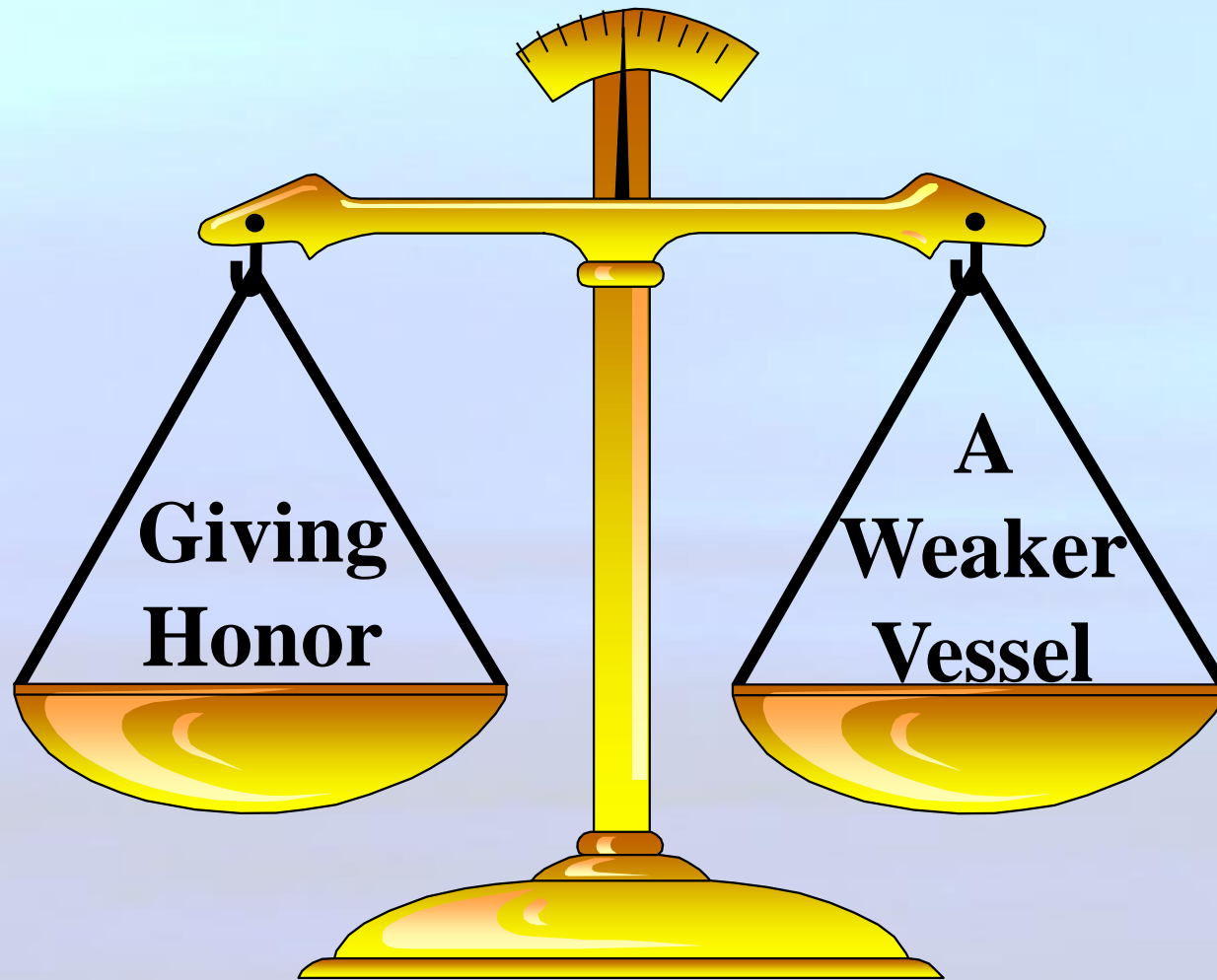
What Knowledge?

- EVERYTHING Scripture teaches about human relationships must be practiced at home.
- *“turn the other cheek and go the second mile,”*
- *“repent,”* and *“confess his sins one to another,”* apologize, confess, and seek forgiveness for all mistreatment.
- *“let not the sun go down on your wrath”*
- *do unto others as you would have others do unto you*
- Wife receives *“first fruits”* of *“the fruit of Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”* Gal. 5:22-23

Honor to wife as to a weaker Vessel

- A Simile: “*sweet as honey,*” “*smooth as silk*” “*brave as a lion,*” or “*busy as a bee.*”
- Not meant literally, just one characteristic.
- “*wise as serpents,*” “*harmless as doves,*” or “*faith as a mustard seed.*”
- A single attribute is the point of comparison,
- No one is being called a serpent or dove.
- Schemes of men exploit women.
- Jesus makes them better than equal.
- Treated as precious, special, fragile.

hos – like as, even as, exactly like



Honor to a Weaker Vessel

- A weaker vessel is fragile and needs special care and concern. Usually only in one area.
- Cellphone and computer very powerful in function and ability, but fragile can't be dropped.
- Car is powerful and strong, but interior and exterior are fragile and can be easily marred.
- Fine china, precious crystal, objects of glass, very strong in beauty, form and function, but fragile in nature.
- A wife is to be treated with more care and concern. Protected and honored more than any of these things. The most precious possession!

A Weaker Vessel

- What is the point of the comparison?
- The specific attribute that limits treatment?
- *Honor: respect, regard, worth, status = precious, priceless, great value.*
- If literal what is the weakness?

Not the Soul or the Dominion

- Then God said, "Let Us make **man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them.** Then God **blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Gen 1:26-28

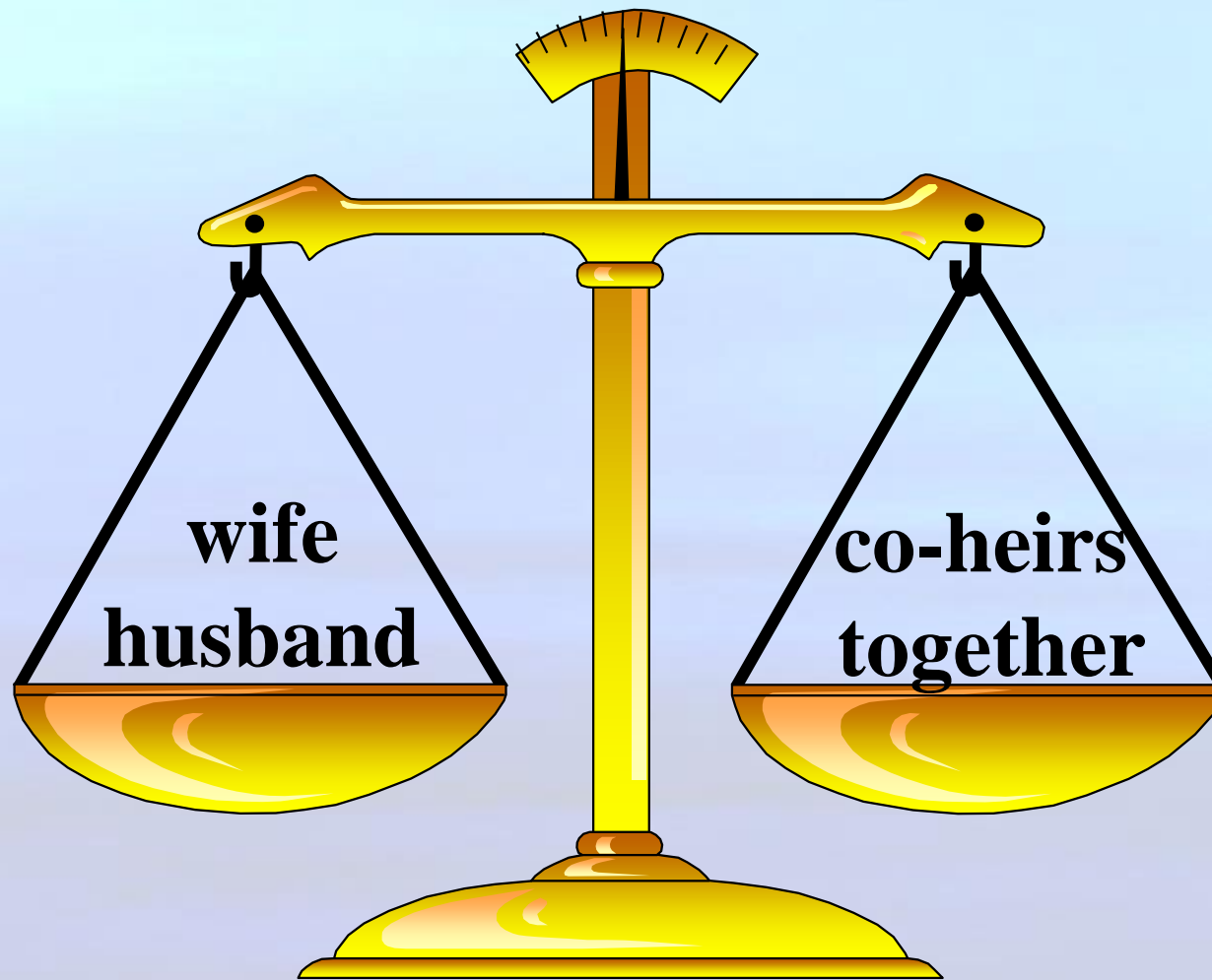
Not the Reward

- *heirs together of the grace of life, 1Pet. 3:7*
- *Co-heirs, joint heirs, equal heirs*
- *Not the Soul*
- *For all of you who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, **there is neither male nor female**; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed heirs according to promise. Gal 3:27-29*

The Only Real Point of Comparison

- Generally it is seen as physical weakness. Most men are physically stronger than most women.
- Whether true or not should be so treated.
- This is the chivalry of the ancient knights.
- Always treated women with respect, care and concern. Treating “*as*” a weaker vessel whether they are or not.
- This is the legacy of Christianity that has been handed down. Open the door, let them go first, protect and makes as easy as possible

hos – like as, even as, exactly like



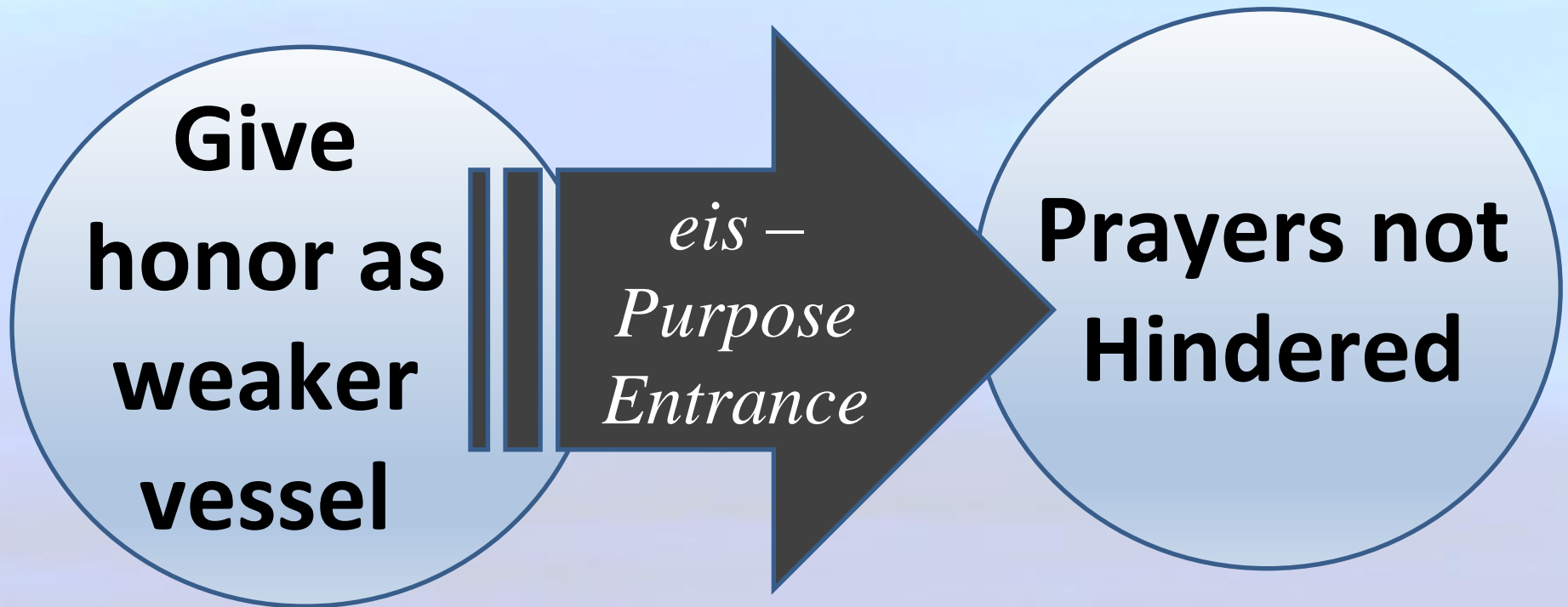
NOTHING to do with Actual Position

- Like all Stewards, different abilities and opportunities, but the same honor and reward.
- Man works with the present
- Woman work with the future
- Everything men do in the present generation women do with the future generation.
- When both do their role the church is secure
- In the present
- In the future

A Powerful Warning: Take to Heart

- *husbands, in like manner, dwell with (your wives) according to knowledge, giving honor unto the woman, as unto the weaker vessel, as being also joint-heirs of the grace of life; **to the end that your prayers be not hindered.** 1Pet. 3:7*
- “*egkopto...* lit to cut into (*en*, in and *kopto*, to cut), was used of impeding persons by breaking up the road, or by placing an obstacle sharply in the path.
- That is what God does with the prayers of a husband who refuses to do these things.

***eis* – basis of support, reason, motive**



If We follow Jesus as Role Model

- *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2Cor 3:18*
- When this glory is reflected in the true church, we see godly and devout Christians walking humbly with their Lord.
- When that glory is reflected in the home we will see a devoted husband using Scripture to guide his treatment, considering her his most precious fragile vessel, to be treated with great care, concern and devotion.