

1st Peter

Christian Life Assembly

Fall 2014


Jim Hoffman

1st Peter 3:1-6

- **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.**




Context

- **For the next two weeks we will focus on the subject raised by Peter at the beginning of chapter 3 – the roles of husbands and wives.**
 - **It is culturally common for us to think ill of God's design for marriage where the husband is the leader (the head) and the wife, the follower.**
 - **Some think that God's order for men and women in a marriage was a result of the fall, but indeed what the fall did was corrupt the order God intended.**
- 




Context

- **In Genesis 2, God was seeking a companion, a helper, for the man and found none that would be able to fill the role among the animal kingdom.**
 - **So He formed woman from one of man's ribs and brought her to the man – and the man said, “wow”.**
 - **So I want us to see from the beginning that God set an order to His creation, not of importance, but of roles.**
- 




The Main Point

- **According to Peter, it is possible for an unbelieving husband to be won to Christ through her submission.**
 - **If you agree that God is glorified when He is seen, then you may also agree that seeing Jesus modeled in your home is about as close a view as one can have.**
 - **And when He is seen, He draws people to Himself.**
- 



The Main Point

- **So what might the husband see?**
 - **Purity, reverence, and character beyond reproach.**
 - **Say what you will, but sometimes the most powerful sermons are not delivered by words.**
 - **In the home, we are what we are without pretense – when you are godly at home, that is the real you, and that is impossible to deny.**
- 



Questions


When I say that wives ought to submit to their husbands, what comes to mind?

What does our world think about a wife being in submission to her husband?






1st Peter 3:1-6

- **The Greek word used here is one that speaks to the subject of rank, or authority.**
 - **Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.**
 - **So the principle here is that the wife is to submit herself to the authority of the husband. (not because he is better, but because God ordained it)**
- 



1st Peter 3:1-6

- **Believe it or not, this command to submit is not primarily aimed at obedience.**
 - **In Eph 6:1 we read, “Children obey your parents in the Lord” – the Greek word here does speak of obedience and adherence.**
 - **Eph 5:22 “For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord.” – here the Greek word for submit is not the same one used for obey above.**
- 



1st Peter 3:1-6

- **We want children to obey without questioning or thinking, not so with submission.**
- **While obedience may be in play when we submit, there is much more going on than adherence to a command.**
- **In fact, a wife may well live her whole life submitting to the authority of her husband, without ever being asked to obey a single command from her husband.**






1st Peter 3:1-6

- Furthermore, a husband is not to treat his wife as a servant or as a child, she is neither.
- In the relationship between the believer and Christ, there is not forced obedience – there is loving compliance with His wishes, but nothing is forced.
- Again, submission is about order, rank, and final decision making authority *should it ever be needed.*






1st Peter 3:1-6

- Please note, “submit yourselves to your own husbands” means just that – *every woman is not in submission to every man.*
 - We always choose this kind of submission – we chose to submit to Christ when we took Him as Savior, and a wife chooses submission to her husband when she marries him.
 - The wife’s submission should not be seen as something that makes her inferior to her husband, but as something that she chooses to do for the sake of godly order in the home.
- 



1st Peter 3:1-6

- **Unfortunately, the history of the church is full of examples of men who thought submission from his wife meant total domination by him.**
 - **Walk ten steps behind.**
 - **Never speak unless given permission.**
 - **And so on, and so on,**
- 




Submission does not mean both husband and wife must think alike on all subjects.

- **A wife is not asked, much less commanded, to agree with everything her husband thinks and says.**
- **Weigh in on every subject, and when necessary disagree, but commit. (the Intel motto)**
- **One of you will usually be more skilled in an area, or more passionate about a given subject – it matters not if it's the husband or the wife.**






Submission does not mean avoiding every effort to change a husband.

- **As Christians we are called first to the two great commandments – to love God and love others.**
 - **What could possibly be more loving than trying to change the eternal destiny of another person?**
 - **In fact, we've already seen that Peter cites the submissive behavior of a godly wife as an act of evangelism.**
- 




Submission does not mean putting the will of the husband before the will of Christ.

- **Being a husband, or a wife is a role that is still subjugated to our primary role of Christ follower.**
 - **A husband who would seek to force his wife to do things that are illegal, immoral, or otherwise against her better judgment, is not fulfilling his role.**
 - **The wife would be totally in line to ‘push back’ and even refuse in any of those events.**
- 




So what is godly submission for the wife?

- **“Submission is the divine calling of a wife to honor and affirm her husband’s leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts. It’s the disposition to follow a husband’s authority and an inclination to yield to his leadership. It is an attitude that says, “I delight for you to take the initiative in our family. I am glad when you take responsibility for things and lead with love. I don’t flourish in the relationship when you are passive and I have to make sure the family works.” John Piper**
- 




1st Peter 3:1-6

- **The purpose of submission on the part of the wife is order in the family, and serves as a picture of Christ and His bride.**
 - **To be in submission should be seen as a place of honor and protection – a safe place.**
 - **It should be seen as a place where one can love and be loved – in fact, whatever advantage the church has in relation to Christ should apply to the wife in the marriage.**
- 




1st Peter 3:1-6

- I am not sure we can have a meaningful discussion of godly submission without going to Ephesians 5 where we see what Spirit-filled behavior looks like.
 - Eph 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; 20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; 21 and *be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.*
 - We are all called to submit to one another – put the needs of others above our own.
- 




1st Peter 3:1-6

- **And the rest of the Ephesians 5 speaks of the godly submission of the wife to her husband and the husband's duty to love his wife.**
 - **A similar teaching is found in Colossians 3.**
 - **Col 3:18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. 20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.**
- 




1st Peter 3:1-6

- **Even our text today begins “In the same way” – the same way as what?**
 - **1st Peter 2:13 For the Lord’s sake, submit to all human authority. (again we see that we are all called to be submissive)**
 - **1st Peter 2:18 You who are slaves must submit to your masters with all respect. (submit even when you are treated unjustly)**
- 



1st Peter 3:1-6

- **Peter also speaks to how much attention should be given to our physical appearance.**
 - **To the wife he says “be less concerned about outward beauty and more concerned about godly character.”**
 - **1st Peter 3:4 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.**
- 



1st Peter 3:1-6

- There are a couple of extremes around this idea of outer beauty in our text –
- One that no attention should be paid to your appearance – I am sorry, life just does not work that way whether we like it or not. We are body, soul, and spirit and there is no reason to neglect any of the three.
- Proverbs 21:22 She makes her own bedspreads. *She dresses in fine linen and purple gowns.*





1st Peter 3:1-6

- **The other extreme is what we see prevailing in our culture – all of the focus is on the externals.**
- **What we value now speaks of our view of eternity. Pity the one who cares only about beauty when it starts to fade. 😊**
- **Proverbs 31:30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised.**





1st Peter 3:7

- **7 In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.**





Questions

