

1 Peter 3.1-7

Wives, Husbands, and Jesus

World FULL of ADVICE about Marriage – Sex – Relationships
 RATE of DIVORCE Steadily CLIMBS: RELATIONS Sad & Stressful
 Statistics from CHURCHES NOT Much Better than from SOCIETY
 Just MARRYING FELLOW Believer > NOT Guarantee Good Marriage
 ANCIENT Words of Peter / God > TIMELESS Relevance to All People

1. The Example of Christ

FOCUS of Peter's Letter has been on Jesus Christ > 12 X's in 2 Chapters

Peter DEFINES HIMSELF as APOSTLE of Jesus

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ

1 Peter 1.1

Writes with JOY and GRATITUDE for what Jesus has DONE for US

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

1 Peter 1.3

Jesus is DECLARED as SAVIOR for SINNERS Like US

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2.24

Must MAKE THAT CLEAR > Why we are EVANGELICALS 'GOOD News'
 SAVIOR who makes us RIGHT WITH God – NOT MORALISTS or LEGALISTS
 Peter thought GOSPEL IMPORTANT to EMPHASIZE & CLARIFY – Now Too!
 ONLY Way you can FOLLOW His EXAMPLE is by Receiving His SALVATION

TRUE FAITH in Christ > Become HIS FOLLOWER Learn from His EXAMPLE
 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example,
 that you should follow in his steps. 1 Peter 2.21

v. 1 Wives, in the same way...

v. 7 Husbands, in the same way...

Get your INSPIRATION and IDEAS of Marriage from Heaven, NOT Hollywood

End of ch 2 > Jesus as OBEDIENT SERVANT – Righteous, Enduring Wrong
 Jesus has WASHED Peter’s FEET – Against Peter’s PROTEST & Confusion
 With Same Cleansed FEET Peter RAN and DENIED Savior who DIED for him

Peter THOUGHT of THAT DARK HOUR when WROTE:

For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd
 and Overseer of your souls. 1 Peter 2.25

Marriage is HARD WORK – “When Sinner’s Say ‘I Do’”! NOT Exaggeration

ONLY works when THINK about Christ as SAVIOR – UNCONDITIONAL Love
 Seek CHRIST’S Power to FOLLOW Him – Be LIKE Him to our SPOUSE
 Jesus NEVER Grasped for PRIVILEGE – Sought HOW He could SERVE

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same
 attitude... 1 Peter 4.1

NATURAL REFLEX – “It’s about ME” > Death of Marriage

JOY Formula – Simple but Not Easy 1. Jesus 2. Others 3. Yourself

Peter’s Word to BOTH Husband and Wife > FOLLOW Example of Jesus
 DIFFERENT Duties but SAME Example and EMPOWERMENT from Jesus

2. Submission

Duty told TWICE to Wives in 6 Verses

v. 1 be submissive to your husbands

v. 5 They were submissive to their own husbands.

Word = MILITARY Term > 'to place under authority / rank'

Same Word used in NT – NONE of them is EVER REVERSED

Jesus SUBMITTED to his PARENTS

Demons submitted to DISCIPLES

Citizens submit to GOVERNING AUTHORITIES

Universe submits to Christ

Church Members submit to Church LEADERS

Jesus submits to God the Father > NO INEQUALITY or SUBORDINATION

Both Jesus and Father FULLY GOD > Different ROLES and DUTIES

CONTEXT –

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men:

1 Peter 2.13

Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect 1 Peter 2.18

he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 1 Peter 2.23

v. 1 in the same way – different TERM for EVEN AS or IN EVERY WAY

Submission of Wife to Husband is LIKE but DIFFERENT than SERVANTS

a. Submission is an Obligation

v. 1 wives, in the same way, be submissive to your husbands

CHOICE to TAKE ON this DUTY > You CHOSE to Marry THIS MAN

LITTLE GIRL HEARD WONDERFUL STORY OF "Snow White"

GIRL RUSHED TO TELL STORY TO HER MOTHER Prince Charming arrived

•

on white horse and kissed sleeping Snow White back to life again •

- then you know what happened?

MOTHER "they lived happily ever after?"

GIRL "NO, they got married"

Many verses speak of EQUALITY of Man and Woman in God's SIGHT

v. 7 heirs with you of the gracious gift of life

NEITHER are SUPERIOR – More BLESSED or LOVED or LOVABLE
Husbands and Wives are PARTNERS – NOT COMPETITORS in Marriage
Submission has to do with GOD'S ORDER > NOT IMPORTANCE of ONE

b. Submission's Origin

OF All things Peter can say to WIFE – WHY this ONE DUTY Emphasized?

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. Ephesians 5.22 > PAUL too!

"Submit" - NEEDS UNDERSTANDING

NOT - dictator, superior, exclusive decision maker, always right

HUSBAND RESPONSIBLE FOR FINAL OUTCOME-
process of discussion & delegation / RELIEF TO WIFE, LIFTS BURDEN

MANY WOMAN THINKING "that's right, my husband is the head"
BUT I AM THE NECK THAT MOVES THE HEAD!!

ORIGIN all the Way BACK to the GARDEN > ORIGIN of Marriage
SIN DISTORTS the Order of Marriage > BALANCE turns to BLAME

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Genesis 3.6

EYES Now OPENED – but NOT Like GOD – Very UNLIKE God

And he (God) said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Genesis 3.11,12

ADAM should have MANNED UP – I was WRONG > SHE was WRONG

To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." Genesis 3.16

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." Genesis 4.6,7

DESIRE – Same word in Ch 3 and 4 in Hebrew and English

DESIRE for your HUSBAND > Seek to CONTROL, Adam ABDICATED!
ADAM BLAMES instead of LEADS > Someone Needs to be IN CHARGE!

Heard MANY Men in Many NATIONS: "She is the THE BOSS!" > WRONG!
She may HAVE TO BE the BOSS because her HUSBAND is LAZY BUM!
But that was NOT the Way GOD CREATED Marriage to WORK BEST

you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers... 1 Peter 1.18

c. Submission is an Opportunity

CONTEXT of 1 Peter > We are in this WORLD as WITNESSES for Christ

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. 1 Peter 2.11

For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.
1 Peter 2.15

CHRISTIAN Women are MARRIED to some of THOSE FOOLISH MEN

Submission is an OPPORTUNITY to SHOW JESUS to these UNBELIEVERS

Greek phrase “even if there are some who do not obey” = NOT Majority
UNEXPECTED and UNCOMMON Occurrence – Most Marriages in FAITH

And sometimes CONVERSION was followed by ABANDONMENT

vs. 1,2 Wives, in the same way be submissive to your 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, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

People need to SEE the Gospel before they can HEAR the Gospel

BUT they also MUST HEAR > Peter was PREACHER of the WORD

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.
1 Peter 1.23-25

SPIRITUAL Life comes ONLY through the LIVING WORD OF GOD
When that LIFE is IN Us – People SEE us Living it OUT and ASK!

HUSBAND SAYS IN AMAZEMENT -

"What got into her??" - JESUS CHRIST

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect
1 Peter 3.15

Need to HEAR the Word but NOT BE NAGGED by the Word

PLAY Christian TV – Radio – Messages real LOUD in the HOUSE > Go OUT!

Understand Frustration want them to Believe > BROKEN RECORD

Need to KNOW your LOVE and CARE for THEM > All of Life is God's

Testimony of St. Augustine about his MOTHER – Monica > Santa Monica, CA

She served her husband as her master, and did all she could to win him for You, speaking to him of You by her conduct, by which you made her beautiful...Finally, when her husband was at the end of his earthly span, she gained him for You.

Augustine describing mother Monica and pagan father Patricius

d. Submission is an Ornament

vs 3-6 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, 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. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

EXTERNAL Adornment / Fashions were EXPENSIVE/EXCESSIVE even THEN!

NOT Saying woman should be PLAIN and UGLY > NOT a LIST of NO's!!

NO - Caring for HAIR NO - Wearing of JEWELRY NO – CLOTHES ON!

We are not *of* this world, but we must not look as though we came from *out of this world!*
Warren Wiersbe

EXAMPLE of Spiritual MOTHER SARAH > HOTTIE at 100 – Oil for Old Ladies!

GLAMOUR is ARTIFICIAL / Real BEAUTY is ETERNAL

A person's "heart" is who that person is, at the deepest and most private level, and for Christian wives, according to Peter, it is the wellspring of their beauty.

J. R. Michaels

3. Consideration

v. 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.

I know it is popular to make jokes about bossy wives and henpecked husbands, but having observed the marriage scene for a considerable time and having personal • involvement in it, I would say the problem is not so much due to the demand of the wives to assert leadership as it is the refusal of husbands to assume their responsibilities.

Ray Stedman

a. Physical 'live with them'

More than sharing SAME ADDRESS or even SAME BED > PART of It

PHYSICAL > 2 become ONE FLESH >

The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. Genesis 2:25

EVIDENCE OF OUR SIN - WE FEEL ASHAMED JUST TO THINK IT

v. 23 "Wow - MAN" / INTIMACY, UNDERSTANDING, SENSITIVITY

IN EVERY WAY - SHARING AT THE DEEPEST LEVELS

partners in Social, Spiritual, and Sexual Needs

BROKEN BY BETRAYED CONFIDENCES - tell stories on our spouse

MAJOR REASON FOR MARRIAGE COLLAPSE lack of romantic love

NEED FOR INTIMACY - 2 Porcupines living in Siberia
 Deep, heavy snows came, very cold, GOT CLOSE TOGETHER
 STUCK ONE ANOTHER WITH THEIR QUILLS
 TOO COLD TO BE SEPARATED FROM EACHOTHER
 Forced to be close together - did so VERY CAREFULLY

As for the Christian husband, society's expectations are in his favor. The likelihood is that if his wife did not share his Christian faith at first, she does by now.

J. R. Michaels

b. Intellectual 'according to knowledge / understanding'

Someone asked Mrs. Albert Einstein "Do you understand his theory of relativity?"

NO! But I understand Dr. Einstein!

FINISH Eachother's Sentences / KNOW what OTHER is Thinking & Feeling

Peter is NOT SPECIFIC with the Phrase 'according to Knowledge' – Perhaps:

- 1) Knowledge of God's purposes and principles for marriage
- 2) Knowledge of wife's desires, goals, frustrations
- 3) Knowledge of wife's strengths and weaknesses – physically, emotionally, spiritually

Requires TIME to get to KNOW One Another

c. Emotional 'treat with respect'

CAN TAKE WIFE FOR GRANTED AS YEARS ROLL ON -

SATURDAY EVENING POST "Seven Ages of a Married Cold"
traces husbands concern for his wife's cold

1st Y "Sugar dumpling, I'm so worried about my baby girl. You've got a bad sniffle and there's no telling about these things with all this strep going around. I'm putting you in the hospital this afternoon for a general check-up and a good rest. I know the food's lousy, but I'll bring in the food from our favorite restaurant."

2nd Y "Listen darling, I don't like the sound of that cough and I've called Doc Miller to rush over here. Now you go to bed like a good girl, please? Just for Papa."

3rd Y "Maybe you'd better lie down, honey; nothing like a little rest when you feel punk. I'll bring you something to eat. Have we got any soup?"

4th Y "Look, dear, be sensible. After you feed the kids and get the dishes washed, you better hit the sack"

5th Y "Why don't you get yourself a couple of aspirin"

6th Y "If you'd just gargle or something, instead of sitting around barking like a seal"

7th Y "For Pete's sake, stop sneezing! What are you trying to do? Give me pneumonia?"

Husbands must honor their wives. For nothing destroys the friendship of life more than contempt; nor can we really love any but those whom we esteem; for love must be connected with respect.

John Calvin

SARAH mean PRINCESS > Peter may be thinking this is HOW to Treat Wives

The husband must be the 'thermostat' in the home, setting the emotional and spiritual temperature. The wife is often the 'thermometer' letting him know what temperature it really is! Both are necessary.

Warren Wiersbe

d. Spiritual – ‘so that nothing will hinder your prayers’

Husband and Wife are JOINT HEIRS of the GRACIOUS Gift of Life

Ref. to the CHILDREN They Produce AND to the ETERNAL Life they Share

MORE to Marriage of Believers than WHAT YOU SEE NOW – Eternal View

So concerned is God that Christian husbands live in an understanding and loving way with their wives, that he ‘interrupts’ his relationship with them when they are not doing so.

Wayne Grudem

For God cannot be rightly called upon, unless our minds be calm and peaceable. Among strifes and contentions there is no place for prayer...For we are more than insane, if we knowingly and wilfully close up the way to God’s presence by prayer, since this is the only asylum of our salvation.

John Calvin

Marriage is not a sacrament conveying divine grace, but it is the human relationship that God has designed to mirror the love of Christ for the church, and of the church for Christ.

Edmund Clowney

1 Peter 3

1. Wives, in the same way be submissive to your 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 braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. 4. Instead, 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 make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, 6. like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. 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.