

Doing Marriage Well

1 Peter 3:1-7 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ² when they see your respectful and pure conduct. ³ Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— ⁴ but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious. ⁵ For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening. ⁷ Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

➤ A Main Theme of 1 Peter

- 1) It is for us to live in such a way that those around us come to know Jesus....
 - That is simply what we have here....

➤ Who are these verses addressed to?

- **A) Believers...** There is great truth in here for children as well
 - We want to raise up our children to know how to do marriage
 - Honestly... There may not be a more important topic than marriage...
 - ◆ In the Church today...
 - ◆ And for children and teenagers...
 - ◆ Even though some of you haven’t thought once about being married...
 - ◆ Most of you will be married...
 - So... please hear God’s Words to you today
- **B) Husbands and Wives in General**
- **C) Husbands and Wives with unbelieving Spouses**
 - Peter hits everybody here with his instructions...

➤ A Word to those of you who may be on the lookout for a Spouse...

- God has a lot to say about this...
- And I have seen this go wrong with people I know a bunch of times...
- And I am more convinced than ever... God’s way is the right way...
 - His way is the better way for you... It is so much better...
 - There is so much less heartache and pain...
- **Scriptures teach:**
 - **2 Corinthians 6:14 ¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?**
 - ◆ **Do not be unequally yoked with an unbeliever**
 - That is being married to, or dating a person that is not saved...
 - Because once a person is married to a non Christian... it is a lifetime commitment...
 - God never desires divorce...

❖ Women Be Subject to your own Husbands

➤ Men NOTICE:

- In just a few verses we see him address husbands... and he tells them what to do...
 - He says... Like wise...
 - So He is following up from the previous thought....
 - So listen closely to these things he says to the women, because some may apply to the husband

▪ 1) Be Subject to your own husbands

- **¹ Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands,**
- **Be Subject or be submissive**
 - ◆ This literally means to place or rank yourself under another... to obey another person
 - ◆ This word is used in the military to describe rank...
- **Not Popular**
 - ◆ This is not something that most people like... Because it is so taken out of context...
 - ◆ Many women want to dismiss these verses.... But it is meant, just as it is read...
 - ◆ Men on the other hand, they love this verse, but they take it a little out of context...
 - They think women should ask them before they do anything... among other wrong ideas
- **Can I Make it Easier to accept?**
 - ◆ If I can prove to you that even Jesus submitted Himself to another that was not greater than Him... would it make it easier for you to submit...
 - **Philippians 2:5-7 ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.**
 - He submitted Himself to the Father...
 - And even does this till now... He has submitted himself to the will of the Father...
 - Which we know is His will also...
 - ◆ So... equals can submit one to the other without being made less
- **Being Submissive does not mean:**
 - ◆ 1) The woman is less of a person than the man
 - ◆ **2) She can not make choices on her own**
 - Because in this context she has chosen Christ without the husband
 - ◆ 3) She agrees with everything the husband says
 - ◆ 4) She never tries to win her husband to Christ
 - One of the main points of these verses is her trying to win him to Christ
 - ◆ **5) She gets her spiritual strength from her husband...**
 - This comes from God... A husband can help... So can a friend...
 - Many of you struggle in here because you look to your husband to fulfill those needs
 - The needs that only God can fill...
 - Even if He met them, you would have an idol in your life...
 - Your relationship with Christ should be strong regardless of your husbands...
 - ◆ **6) She lives in fear of her husband...**
 - God says we are not to fear man, but God....
 - And these women, we see did not fear, because they had faith
- **2) Why... Why is it important to be this way?**
 - **(¹ Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands,)**
 - **so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives**
 - **The Goal here... is glorifying God... so men and women are brought to Jesus...**
 - **There is Hope for you... if your spouse is an unbeliever...**
 - ◆ You can win them. Peter is writing to give you instructions on how to do so.
 - **Now... How does this apply if your husband is a believer...**
 - ◆ Well... if following the Lord's instructions here helps them come to know God...
 - ◆ I would assume it will also help them grow in the walk with God....
 - **How does this apply to Men?**
 - ◆ Much in the same way as it applies to women...

- ◆ Behaving like a godly husband will help to win the wife as well...
- ◆ The roles are a little different, but the desired outcome is the same
- **Note: I want you all to know... there is no greater than or less than in mind when it comes to husbands and wives...**
 - ◆ Never in all of the Bible is a man made out to be greater than a woman...
 - ◆ Please hear this... this is a tool of Satan... meant for division...
 - ◆ He uses it against the church in public... to discredit the gospel
 - ◆ He plays on the pride of men and women...
 - ◆ Although there is never a place that places a man as a greater than a woman...
 - There are roles... Roles that God has set in place... for our greatest pleasure
 - And for His greatest glory...
 - ◆ Now: I say that men and women are equal... and have equal responsibility before God...
 - To be faithful to Him...
 - They also both have equal responsibility to help the other grow in the Lord...
 - I think it is very clear from these verses... that both men and women...
 - Should be equally concerned with the spiritual growth of their spouse.
- **2) Be respectful and pure in your conduct**
 - **² when they see your respectful and pure conduct.**
 - ◆ **Respectful**
 - **It means you respect your husband...**
 - **Your husband may not have given you a reason to respect him...**
 - We all think this is something that should be earned.
 - But in the text here it is telling these Christian women who love God
 - Some who have pagan husbands... Who are so sinful. And even worship false gods...
 - To respect her husband....
 - **So, it means to respect him for the fact that he is your husband,**
 - Not because he passes a test to get your respect.
 - **Maybe a better way to understand it is:**
 - In regards to our Parents...
 - Even if they were not perfect we still respected them as our parents...
 - Or were supposed to...
 - ◆ **Pure or Chaste**
 - This is in regards to the kind of life you live....
 - Do you live a pure life...?
 - Do you mess around with other men,
 - Either physically or in the mind...
 - What is your lifestyle like...
 - What kind of television do you watch and get into...
 - Is it something a person with PURE conduct would watch....
 - **This word describes a person of moral purity**
 - The word literally means... free from sin...
- **3) Adorn the Inner Person**
 - **Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—⁴ but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.**
 - **In our Culture:**
 - ◆ Outward beauty is of way more importance than inner beauty for most women.
 - ◆ **This verse is not saying a woman should not make herself beautiful for her husband...**

- She should...
- Sarah.... Is given as an example in a few verses as a woman who adorned her inner self.
- But... She was so outwardly beautiful that Abraham had to pretend she was his sister...
 - One time the king of the area so her and brought her into his own home.
- Likewise the woman in Song of Solomon was of great outward beauty....
- ◆ **So... It is not saying don't make an effort on how you look...**
- ◆ **It is saying.... Spend more of your focus on your inner beauty...**
 - In a given day... do we spend more time on prepping the outside
 - Than prepping the inside...
 - That can be a litmus test for you...
- **External Beauty catches the lust of the man.... It catches the infatuation of the man**
 - ◆ Inner beauty captures the heart of the man...

▪ 4) Have a Gentle and quiet Spirit

- **gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.**
- **This means**
 - ◆ Gentle means meek,
 - ◆ quiet means just that, peaceful, calm, in control.
 - ◆ The word spirit means disposition.
- **The Woman pictured here is the woman with a meek, gentle, peaceful, calm, quiet disposition.**
 - ◆ Not a woman that is going to bulldoze her husband into submission...
 - ◆ Or guilt him into doing something...
- **which in God's sight is very precious.**
 - Do not overlook this... it is precious in God's sight to see a woman with a beautiful heart

➤ 5) Example of this Woman:

- **⁵For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, ⁶as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.**
- **Lets Look at the example of Sarah:**
 - **Although not perfect... She submitted herself to her husband...**
 - ◆ She went where he went as he was led by God....
 - **She honored him so much, that she called him Lord....**
 - ◆ Or the equivalent today is: SIR....
 - ◆ I do not advocate this today... Nor are you instructed to do so... it was cultural
 - **But... by her words you see where her Heart was for her husband....and that is the key here**
 - **Characteristics of this woman:**
 - ◆ They hoped in God
 - ◆ They did good
 - ◆ They did not fear...
 - And if you do these things you are her children, her followers...
 - ◆ In the same way we are children of Abraham if we just have Faith...
 - ◆ And it is a good thing... to be like her... because as you see...
 - ◆ You are then considered... "a holy woman" **This is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves....**

➤ Again... For what Reason?

- **they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives,**

- **This is amazing... if there is an unbelieving husband... or one who needs growth**
 - **Won without a word...**
 - ◆ You do not have to say a thing...
 - **By the conduct of their wives.**
 - ◆ Live your life in fear of the Lord...
 - ◆ In awe of God... Let His light shine within you...

⁷ Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

❖ **Likewise:**

- **Just because the previous part was addressed to women... much applies to husbands...**
 - **Or at least they should be aware too...**
- **Husbands... you submit too....**
- **It is the Husbands responsibility to help the wife submit.**
 - Men we sit around and wonder why our wives do not respect us....
 - Why they will not be like the Bible and submit to us...
 - Well... you may have the wrong understanding of submit....
- **How hard it is:**
 - To submit to someone that does not have a spiritual bone in their body...
 - Doesn't have a time alone with God every day...
 - **That lives in and ungodly way...**
 - Does not have integrity...
 - A man with a filthy mouth
 - Or a man that watches or listens to filthy things.
 - **A man that does not care about the spiritual growth of themselves or their family...**
 - A Man that does not lead
 - Women are commanded to do submit to husbands...
 - But we sure make it hard on them at times don't we...
- **He says... Like wise.....**
 - There is an area of submission for the husband...
 - In the same way that women are called to submit... men are as well... To Christ
 - And if they are not submitting... in this way... the train will run off the tracks...
 - **What the Bible tells the man:**
 - **Eph 5.25-29** ²⁵ Husbands, **love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,** ²⁶ that he might **sanctify her**, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might **present the church to himself in splendor**, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be **holy and without blemish.** ²⁸ **In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.** He who loves **his wife loves himself.** ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but **nourishes and cherishes** it, just as Christ does the church,
 - ◆ This... is so utterly comprehensive... What a command for men...
 - ◆ Expound:

❖ **Husbands live with your wives in an understanding way, and Honor them.**

- **How?**
 - **Live in an understanding Way**
 - This is a struggle... this is where I struggle...
 - We are called to be understanding of our wives...

- I am not saying this is easy... and I am sure there are a hundred jokes we could insert here...
- But... let's not make light of God's command to us...

- **John MacArthur Wrote:**

- "Living with your wife with understanding first of all involves mutual submission. Prior to commanding wives to submit to their husbands the apostle Paul taught that we are to submit to one another in the fear of the God (Ephesians 5:21). Submission is thus the responsibility of Christian husbands as well as of wives. Though not submitting to his wife as a leader, a believing husband must submit to the loving duty of being sensitive to the needs, fears, and feelings of his wife. In other words, a Christian husband needs to subordinate his needs to hers, whether she is a Christian or not."

- **What does Peter mean here?**

- **He says: live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel,**

- Notice: He calls her the weaker vessel....
- The funny thing here is that many men take this to think they are the Strong vessel...
- **NOPE...**
 - ◆ We are weak too...
 - ◆ We are looking at two weak vessels...
 - ◆ The woman is just considered weaker here...
- **Nothing to get upset about... it is a Biblical truth...**
 - ◆ God made man... And He made woman to be his helper...
 - ◆ Not to be the man... but to be the man's helper... There is a beautiful partnership in mind
- **Weaker: Saying this makes us squirm doesn't it?**
 - ◆ Makes me squirm... but I made a commitment a long time ago to be faithful to God's Word
 - ◆ With no care for what people may think...
 - ◆ In our culture... to say this is almost an unpardonable sin...
 - "What do you mean women are weaker... I know many women who are just as strong as men" you might here...
 - ◆ **Well... If God says it... it must be true...**
 - Obviously I do not think God means weaker... **Spiritually...** right?
 - Some of these men are not even saved according to these verses...
 - I doubt he means **intellectually**... We know for certain that men and women have same capacity for learning...
 - Why else does Peter give women 6 verses and men 1 here in chapter 3...
 - He knows the men need to have it put to them simply and straight!
 - **Likely... he is referring to Physical Strength...**
 - Not that all men are stronger than all women...
 - But... I think it is very very obvious that men are usually stronger than women physically....
 - I work in the fitness world... and it is obvious that men have a much greater capacity for muscle growth...
 - This is likely what Peter is referring to... He may have been speaking of "emotions" as well... but that is not as obvious here...

- **An understanding way....**

- **1) Because she is weaker... even though you are weak too**
 - ◆ Many times I believe we expect women to live up to what we can accomplish...
 - ◆ We may expect more out of them than they can give....
 - ◆ We are not to be like this...

- **2) Live understanding she has needs**

- ◆ The woman has emotional needs
- ◆ She has intimate needs
- ◆ She has to be cherished
- ◆ Protected
- ◆ Insulated
- ◆ Needs to be led...

- If she is not being led.... It will be very difficult for your wife to find her way in her life

- **Honor**

- **God has honored us by:**

- ◆ Giving us eternal life... Citizenship in heaven... Rewards.... Authority...

- **We are to honor God by exalting Him...**

- ◆ With our praises as well as our actions...

- **Men are to honor their wives... by:**

- **showing honor to the woman since they are heirs with you of the grace of life,**

- ◆ Giving ourselves to them....
- ◆ Whatever they need... we must give...
- ◆ Christ gave up his life for the church... we are commanded to love the wife in the same way.
- ◆ Can't we do the lesser and give up ourselves for her?

- **The responsibility of the wife's submissiveness...**

- Lies with the husband.... If the husband is who He should be... the wife will be won.

- **Then He gives us a very important reason to listen:**

- **So your prayers are not hindered**

- And here is where it gets real... If your relationship with your wife isn't right
- Your relationship with God won't be right...

- **I can tell you personally this is so very true...**

- As a pastor... it is impossible for me to do sermon prep with prayer...
- When my wife and I are at odds... especially if I have not followed these instructions

- ❖ **Invitation....**

- Let's pray for growth in this area