

## Wives: Be Subject to your own Husband 1 Peter 2:21-3:1-6

All Bible Verses are in the ESV

© 2001–2012 Crossway.

All rights reserved.

All emphasis added/insertions are mine

1

### 1 Peter 2:21-25

*21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

2

### 1 Peter 3:1-6

*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.*

3

### Review from Introduction

- Men and women are both made in the image of God and are equal in value & dignity (Gen 1:26-27)
- Men and women have distinct roles and responsibilities
  - These roles (headship/submission) are established pre-fall
- Wives are called to submit
  - This is a submission to their “own” husbands
- If your husband asks you to disobey God, you must obey God rather than man (Acts 5:29)
- If you are a wife, the command throughout scripture is to “*be subject/submit*” to your own husband

4

## Wives submission is clear throughout Scripture

**Ephesians 5:22-24** *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.*

**Colossians 3:18** *Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

**Titus 2:3** *Older women...teach what is good and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, **kind and submissive to their own husbands**, that the word of God may not be reviled.*

5

*VI wives be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word*

- Peter knows that some of the wives would be submitting to unbelieving and imperfect husbands
- Immediately Peter removes all excuses for lack of submission with the words “*even if*”
  - Even if he isn’t a Christian
  - Even if he isn’t a good leader
  - Even if he doesn’t lead they way you think he should
  - Even if he doesn’t lead like other men you know
- God knows your circumstances, He knows how hard it is (By God’s grace, you can submit)
- Submission is not a husband issue

6

## If your husband “does not obey the word” what is your hope or desire?

- That he “*be won*” spiritually speaking
  - For unbelieving husbands (born-again)
  - For believing husbands (lead biblically)
- I do not doubt for one second that if you are a true Christian wife your desire is for your husband to be saved and to lead spiritually
  - I am concerned about your unbiblical means of achieving this goal
- Many of you pray, study the word, buy your husband books, suggest going to listen to godly preachers, etc
  - Then you completely disobey God’s word

7

*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, when they see your respectful and pure conduct*

Herein lies the sin of most women regarding their husbands

- You have this great desire that your husband be saved or conformed to the image of Christ and scripture clearly states this will happen “*without a word*” yet you refuse to believe and yield to this truth
- Where did you learn that?
  - Watching your own mother? Following the culture?
  - Not from scripture
  - Scripture teaches just the opposite

8

## Consider the warning given

- Many of you think you are working to win your husband to the Lord with your words but you are really driving him away (from God & yourself)
- “Without a word”
  - V1 *likewise* (In the same manner as before v1)
  - 1 Peter 2:21 *For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten*

9

## How will he be won?

*V1 without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.*

- When they see (eyes), not hear
- See what? “*respectful & pure conduct*”
  - What we see is-This is a heart/character issue (inner)
  - The spirit of the submissive wife should be demonstrated in respectful and pure conduct (not with disrespectful words)
  - There is power in holy submissive living
  - It is so tempting to use your tongue, but it is not God’s way

Many of you have been trying to use your tongue to win over your husbands and you are working against God instead of with Him

- You may say “I am just a talkative person or outspoken person, that is just who I am”=REPENT!

10

## Knowing this is an “inner” issue

### Peters focuses the wives

*V3 Do not let your adorning be external-the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear”*

- This text is not about what you should or shouldn’t wear
- Peter is focusing the wives attention on “inner” rather than “outer” beauty (focusing on eternal things rather than perishable)

*V4 But let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious*

- Give your attention, your focus, your gaze to the hidden person of the heart
- View precious what God views as precious
- Don’t be consumed with external adorning but with internal adorning

11

## Imperishable Beauty

### A Gentle and Quiet Spirit

Do you believe you are a submissive wife?

- Do you possess a gentle and quiet spirit? Ask your husband
- Gentle: mild, humble, meekness
- Quiet: peaceable, tranquil (Romans 12:18)

Submission & “being won without a word” doesn’t mean a wife can never speak

- When they do speak, it should come from a gentle/quiet spirit
- A wife can and should share input (husband should welcome it)
- What do you do if you and your husband disagree?

12

## Example of a submissive wife

*V5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their husbands, v6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. Are you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.*

- Precious in the sight of God are women who submit
- Holy women submit to their husbands
- Holy women adorn themselves in submission (gentle/quiet spirit)
- The key to submitting is found in these 2 verses

13

## Wives be subject to your own husbands

- Prayerfully consider that last two weeks of study
- Sit down with your husband and ask “In what areas am I not submitting to you”
- Keep entrusting yourself to God (hoping in Him)
- Remember that God is responsible for transforming your husband’s heart, your responsibility is obedience in submission.
- Lord’s Supper-Husbands/Wives get together (Pray)
  - If you are not married, pray for those around you
  - Children, pray for your father/mother
  - We can’t work every detail out now, but we can start in confessing and asking for forgiveness
    - Evidence it is real is if change begins at home

15

## Key demonstrated in both examples

*Example of Jesus 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. 23 When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, **but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly.***

*Example of Sarah V5 For this is how the holy women **who hoped in God** used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their husbands, v6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. Are you are her children, if you do good and **do not fear anything that is frightening.***

- The key to submitting to your husband is trusting in God
- It is believing that if you obey God, the outcome is in His hands and is working together for good (in His time)
- It is not fearing in obedience (even if that means submitting to an unbeliever or a husband who isn’t leading properly)

14