

# **“Submission in Marriage for Wives”**

## **1 Peter 3:1-6**

Pastor John Miller

### **I. Introduction**

- A. Live a beautiful life before the (Gentile) or unbelieving world
  - 1. They will speak against you as evildoers
  - 2. As they watch your beautiful life, they will come to glorify God
- B. Peter points out four places where we are to live beautifully
  - 1. Before the state (1 Peter 2:13)
  - 2. In the workplace (1 Peter 2:18)
  - 3. In the home (1 Peter 3:1-7)
  - 4. In the church (1 Peter 3:8)
    - a) In all four, the beautiful life is a life of submission
- C. Today, we come to submission in marriage for wives (vv. 1-6) and husbands (v. 7)
  - 1. Peter is now speaking to wives, primarily Christian wives married to non-Christian husbands
  - 2. The commands Peter gives here are applicable to wives with Christian husbands as well
    - a) (Ephesians 5:22-33)
    - b) (Colossians 3:18-19)
    - c) (Titus 2:4-5)
- D. There is no question that the institution of marriage is in big trouble today
  - 1. Why? Because marriage is God’s idea
  - 2. Genesis 2
  - 3. We must turn back to God and His Word for help
- E. Today, we look at God’s word to wives
  - 1. Her behavior
  - 2. Her beauty
  - 3. Her belief

### **II. Her Behavior (1 Peter 3:1-2)**

- A. “Likewise ye wives” (v. 1)
  - 1. “In the same way”
    - a) In the same way as (v.13), “submit yourselves to”
    - b) “Servants, be subject to your masters.” (v. 18)
- B. “Be in subjection to your own husbands.” (v. 1)
  - 1. “Submit yourselves”

C. What is submission?

1. To “place yourself under”
  - a) “To rank under”
2. No personal inferiority is implied
  - a) “Heirs together of the grace of life” (v. 7)
    - 1) (2 Corinthians 11:3)
    - 2) All Christians to one another
3. It is to voluntarily arrange yourself under your husband to serve a greater purpose
4. It is to be done as unto the Lord (Ephesians 5:22)
5. It’s pleasing to God (Colossians 3:18)
6. It’s because the husband is the head of the wife (Ephesians 5:23)

D. What if your husband is not a Christian?

1. Peter points out there is a mission in your submission (vv. 1-2)
  - a) “If any obey not the word” (v. 1)
  - b) “They also might without a word be won” (v. 1)
  - c) How? By the behavior of the wives (vv. 1-2)
2. Don’t leave or divorce your unsaved husband (1 Corinthians 7)
  - a) Submit to him
  - b) Pray for him
  - c) Live a pure life with fear of God (v. 2)
    - 1) (Galatians 6:9)

### III. Her Beauty (1 Peter 3:3-4)

A. “Adorning” (v. 3)

1. Greek- *kosmos*

B. Is Peter giving wives an outright prohibition?

1. No. Jesus said, “Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life” (John 6:27 NIV).

C. Peter is saying don’t be unduly concerned with outward adornment (v. 3)

1. Don’t focus only on the outward beauty.
2. It is okay to look nice for your husband.

D. Focus on the inner beauty (v. 4)

1. The inner person of the heart (inner self)
2. It’s not corruptible.
3. A meek or gentle spirit
4. A quiet, calm spirit of tranquility
5. God views it as very precious.
6. God looks at the heart.
  - a) Ask yourself: When God looks at your heart, does He approve?

- b) Warren Wiersbe- *“Glamor is artificial and external; true beauty is real and internal. Glamor is something a person can put on and take off, but true beauty is always present. Glamor is corruptible; it decays and fades. True beauty from the heart grows more wonderful as the years pass. A Christian woman who cultivates the beauty of the inner person will not have to depend on cheap externals. God is concerned about values, not prices.”*
- c) “Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised” (Proverbs 31:30 KJV).

7. Inner beauty is always in fashion.

- a) How?
  - 1) Word of God
  - 2) Spirit of God
  - 3) Prayer to God
  - 4) Obedience to God

#### **IV. Her Belief** (1 Peter 3:5-6)

\* Peter says that Christian wives should look to the “holy women of the past as models for their conduct.” Peter tells women three things about Old Testament women they should follow (v.5).

A. They were holy

1. “Called and set apart by God”

- a) They had a relationship with God.

B. They trusted God

- 1. Women of faith
- 2. Do you trust God?

C. They adorned themselves (v. 5)

1. With what?

- a) God-like behavior based on their relationship to God, their love for God, and their faith in God
- b) How they behaved came from what they believed.

2. Illustration- Sarah

- a) When did she call Abraham “Lord?”

- i. “Therefore, Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?” (Genesis 18:12).
- b) NIV- “You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.” (v. 6)
  - i. Like Sarah, don’t be afraid to submit to and obey your husband.

## **V. Conclusion**

- A. Wives’ behavior should be submissive.
- B. Wives’ beauty should be spiritual.
- C. Wives’ belief should be trust and hope in God.
  - 1. (Proverbs 31)
    - a) She’s valuable
    - b) She’s trustworthy
    - c) She’s a blessing