



I PETER 3:1-6 – PART I

HOW HOUSEHOLDS FOLLOW THE CREATOR'S PATTERN FOR CORRECTIVE AND FUNCTIONAL ONENESS

CHRISTIAN WIVES PRACTICING GOD-HONORING SUBMISSION BECOME POWERFULLY INFLUENTIAL (3:1-2)

“ *Likewise, wives be subject to your own husbands,*”

- “*likewise*” relates to Christians submitting to governing authorities, servants submitting to masters, and Jesus submitting to the mission of His Father
- A wife is to acknowledge her role **to line up under and support** her husband **as he spearheads the God-given mission and purpose of their relationship**
- What is the God-given purpose of marriage and households?
 - Genesis 1:26–28
- As representatives of their Creator King, a husband leads his wife in ruling over the earth in a manner that promotes the principles and purpose of their God
- The principles and purposes of God are promoted:
 - In marriage & household
 - In church
 - In the workplace
 - In the community
- The husband leads his wife and household, so they are faithful and fruitful stewards of God’s good gifts in all of life

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- Genesis 2:18
 - God made the wife to be her husband's assistant, corresponding to him in a **contrasting way that aids him as they seek to fulfilling his God-given mission**
 - Satan, the world, and human self-centeredness supplant the man, his wife, and their household from their God-appointed task
- Genesis 2:24
 - They are meant to be connected and complete one another in God-honoring oneness
 - Their union in marriage becomes the vehicle to display God's purpose of fruitful dominion achieved through oneness
- **THIS IS THE BACKDROP FOR PETER'S INSTRUCTION**

CHRISTIAN WIVES PRACTICING GOD-HONORING SUBMISSION BECOME POWERFULLY INFLUENTIAL (3:1-2)

- The husband and father's disobedience may be tied to his unwillingness to take their dominion seriously
- “*subject to your own husband*” – her OWN spouse, not all men in the community or society
 - Nurturing oneness with one's spouse is a means of worship, progressive sanctification, and witness
 - Submission or being subject (i.e. ranking under for support and proper function) does not mean women are inferior to men or that wives are inferior to husbands
 - Men and women, husbands and wives, have equal standing as children of God
 - Galatians 3:28
 - I Peter 3:7
- The call for a wife to be subject is not an accommodation of first century culture
- Scripture connects a wife's submission to the role of the church in relation to Jesus
 - Ephesians 5:22–24

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- The husband's leadership in establishing the evidence of God's earthly rule and associated fruitfulness, is sought with the help of his wife
 - A husband's sin, weakness, and sluggishness does not change God's intended structure in marriage and the home
 - Such structure in the household is taught in Scripture and tied to the order of creation, showing it does not change with time or the influence of society
 - 1 Corinthians 11:7-8
 - 1 Timothy 2:11-13
 - Titus 2:4-5
- Submission indicates structure, roles, and trust in the wisdom of God
- A wife submits to her husband, with the desire for oneness, working to establish God's dominion through truth and fruitfulness as a household

CHRISTIAN WIVES PRACTICING GOD-HONORING SUBMISSION BECOME POWERFULLY INFLUENTIAL (3:1-2)

“so that even if some do not obey the word,”

- The wife Peter addresses may be married to an unbeliever or a believer who is not walking consistently in the truth (*“if some do not obey the word”*)
- Peter is unwilling to allow a husband’s disobedience to justify the rejection of the Creator’s standard of a husband’s headship and the wife’s submission
- The hope is that God will use wives who obey God to convert unbelieving husbands and restore disobedient husbands
- This does not mean that a disobedient Christian husband is not confronted by his wife, his elders, and his church
- Peter’s instructions don’t mean that a Christian wife must walk in sin if her husband demands it
- What she wants from her husband is what she is putting on display – **obedience**

“won without a word by the conduct of their wives” – the wife is trusting the power of God to bring heart-change, **not her persuasive communication**

- God knows what will have the most **impact on heart-change** for a man
- She must resist verbal pressure through shaming, pressuring, and manipulation

CHRISTIAN WIVES PRACTICING GOD-HONORING SUBMISSION BECOME POWERFULLY INFLUENTIAL (3:1-2)

“² when they see your respectful and pure conduct.”

- “see” – Peter is focusing on the power of what a husband observes in the behavior and conduct of his wife
- “*respectful*” is a prepositional phrase in Greek – in fear – ἐν φόβῳ
 - The fear called for here is not of her husband, but of the Lord God
 - The promise is that her husband will see her reverent obedience and will be impacted by it
- She desires to aid her husband in worshipfully building their household before the Lord, contributing to a community that establishes God’s dominion through truth and fruitfulness
- “*pure conduct*” – her day-to-day practices evidence her undistracted focus on Jesus
 - Her focus is not on her husband as the problem and barrier, but on the truth and power of her Lord to transform hearts
 - This produces conduct free from resentment, insincerity, and manipulation

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- How do you see marriage and parenting as a means of worship and progressive sanctification?
- Can you explain the wisdom of God's design for headship and submission in marriage?
- Why is Peter unwilling to allow a husband's disobedience to justify the rejection of the Creator's standard of a husband's headship and the wife's submission?
- What does it look like for you, as a husband or as a wife, to accept the Creator's purpose for husbands and wives on earth?



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