

First Peter 3:1-6

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,

Peter is addressing those who may find themselves in free in Christ but under the authority of others who are not in Christ.

- 1) Government - First, members of the Kingdom of God must submit themselves to the authorities of this age (1Peter 2:13)
- 2) National Culture (Nation) - slaves must submit themselves to their saved and unsaved masters
- 3) Family - wives must submit themselves to their saved and unsaved husbands
- 4) Church - everyone live in harmony in the church (1 Peter 3:8)

God has established both the natural order and the spiritual order. He is Lord over the temporal and the eternal. The two worlds are both his creation and they work together in his plan. You can not rebel against one and hope to be in line with the other.

Freedom in Christ does not mean you are free from:

- 1) Government
- 2) Responsibility
- 3) Pains and pleasures of live
- 4) Morality

“Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.” (1 Peter 2:16) (“cover-up” refers to “veil or cloak”)

“submissive” is the same word used in reference to government and slavery.

Peter recognizes woman here as people with volition with the ability to think on their own and make decisions and as members of the church. Peter:

- 1) recognizes they have made a decision for Christ
- 2) recognizes and supports the fact that they have a different religion than their husbands
- 3) instructs them and encourages them to influence their husbands decision for Christ

Peter also instructs them on how to live as free women, with their own volition and members of the body of Christ in the human institution of marriage.

Women are not presented in scripture as inferior but they are presented as under authority in marriage.

Women are reminded that they are not superior to their husbands because they believe and their husbands do not. Wives remain in the order of society just like a believing slave remains obedient to his master or a citizen honors the government even though they are believers in Christ.

Women are not presented as second place to the father in the family but as one of two equal parents.

“Honor your father and mother” (Exodus 20:12 – the 5th commandment)
(Dt. 21:18; 27:16)

There is a time to obey God rather than government so there is also a time to obey God or the government instead of your husband. If husband wants wife to be immoral she should obey God. If husband wants wife to be illegal she should obey government because her husband is under the authority of both God and the government.

Institutions Established by God for the Well Being of Mankind	Scripture Reference	Purpose for being Institution
Individual Volition	Gn. 2:16 – “You are free. . .”	Individuals might respond to God and be judged
Marriage	Gn. 2:24 – “a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife.”	Foundation for Family
Family	Gn. 7:1 – “you and your whole family (Gn.6:18)	Foundation for Society
Government	Gn. 9:5,6 – “by man shall his blood be shed.”	Create and Maintain Peaceful Society
Nations	Gn. 11:8 – “the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth.”	So Societies might have volition to respond to God
Israel	Gn. 12:2 – “I will make you into a great nation.”	Preserve the truth of God’s revelation in the earth
Church	Matt. 16:18 – “I will build my church.”	Communicate to the kingdom’s of the world the truth of God’s eternal kingdom

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.

Wives do not try to win the spiritual battle with external dress, but with the internal character.

What some people wear is so loud that others can not hear what they are saying

“adornment” is the Greek word “kosmos” and means to “order or arrange.” It is the opposite of chaos.

A women’s clothing, hair and jewelry should match or be arranged so that it reflects here Christianity.

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.

“inner self” is literally “the inner man of the heart.”

“gentle” is “meek, calm, peaceful”. The opposite is “rough” or “bad tempered”

“quiet” means “not touchy”. Mt. 11:29 – Jesus describes himself as “meek and humble”

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,

“holy” means “set apart”

Many of the ancient women were very beautiful in the eyes of men: Sarah, Bathsheba, Rachel. But, they made themselves beautiful in the eyes of men and God in their inner character

An example of this inner beauty is stated here by Peter: "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.

Sarah had actions and words:

- a) She obeyed Abraham
- b) She called him "lord" (kurios)

Believing wives are to:

- a) Do what is right
- b) Do not fear men or circumstances.

Clothing in the Spiritual World

- Psalms 104:1,2 - God clothes himself in light. His character clothes him
- Ezekiel 1:27 – The LORD was a fire from the loins up and a fire from the loins down
- Genesis 3:10, 11 – Apparently Adam and Eve were also clothed from the inside out in the garden, but when they sinned they lost their inner nature and so lost their clothing. Animals' fur and birds' feathers grow from the inside out.
- Satan - Is. 14:12, Ezek. 28:17,18, Lk. 10:18 – show Satan had light and lost it. Today he can masquerade or dress up like light to deceive 2 Cor. 11:13-15
- Resurrection Body – we will be clothed in white linens which will come from our nature and character

3:7
"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."

1 Peter 3:7

οι ανδρες	HUSBANDS	ομοιως	LIKEWISE
συνοικουντες	DWELLING WITH THEM	κατα	ACCORDING
γνωσιν	TO KNOWLEDGE	ως	AS
σκευει	VESSEL	τω	WITH THE
απονεμοντες	RENDERING	γυναικειω	FEMALE
και	ALSO BEING	τιμην	THEM HONOUR
χαριτος	OF THE GRACE	ως	AS
μη	NOT	συγκληρονομοι	JOINT HEIRS
τας προσευχας υμων	YOUR PRAYERS	ζωης	OF LIFE
		εις	to SO AS
		εκκοπτεσθαι	TO BE CUT OFF

Christian Husbands are to be:

- 1) Considerate and dwell with knowledge with their wife
- 2) Protective and Supportive of the physically weaker
- 3) Honoring their unique spouse
- 4) Cooperative with a daughter of God who is joint heir in Christ

ομοίως **LIKEWISE**

- Goes back to 2:17
- These directions have been to believers in general, believing slaves, believing wives and now believing husbands.
- There is no instructions here for the unsaved.
- God's only advice, command and requirement for the unbeliever is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Includes submission to human institutions
- There is no discussion of a believing husband having a non-believing wife.
- Husbands in this culture could forbid idols and require conformity

συνοικουντες **DWELLING WITH THEM**

- "Dwell" refers to living as a domestic couple
- "Dwelling" is used only here in the NT but occurs in the LXX in Dt.22:13; 24:1; 25:5; Is. 62:5; Pr. 19:14
- "Dwelling" has an overtone of living with a wife in a married state and includes the bedroom, the kitchen, the family room and the garage.

κατα **ACCORDING** γνωσιν **TO KNOWLEDGE**

- "Knowledge" refers to a scriptural understanding of marriage
- This is insight into God's plan and Christian character and sensitivity to the wife.

ασθενεστερω **WITH A WEAKER EVEN**

- "Weaker" does not refer to intelligence or will but to the physical structure.
- Women were created different than men.
- Genesis 2:7 – "the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground."
- Genesis 2:22 – "the Lord God made a woman from the rib "part" he had taken out of the man."

σκευει **VESSEL**

- "vessel" is used in the NT to refer to temple vessels and household vessels
- Vessels were chosen and used to accomplish a purpose
- Acts 9:15 – Paul is a chosen vessel of God
- The husband is to dwell in a domestic relationship with his wife but realize she is vessel with a purpose

Four uses of vessel in Greek:

1. Person is an instrument of God as Paul was in Acts 9:15
2. Physical Body is a vessel containing:
 - a. The soul as in 1 Thessalonians 4:4
 - b. The glory of God as in 2 Corinthians 4:7
3. An object or creation of the Creator or the Potter as in 2 Timothy 2:20
4. The Rabbi's taught that husbands had a possession in the wife and she was their vessel or object of possession. This attitude is not supported in scripture

Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 18:6 shows Abraham telling Sarah to prepare a meal but yet he himself went out to get the meat, set the table, served the meal and waited on the guests.

τω WITH THE γυναικειω FEMALE

απονεμοντες RENDERING

“Giving” means “to assign to”, “to portion off.”

There is a special portion of respect, gentleness, recognition that the husband gives the wife that:

1. he does not give to anyone else
2. she does not receive or accept from anyone else

Titus did this to the troops when they destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD

τιμην THEM HONOUR

- “Honor” same word in 1:19 translated “precious” which referred to Christ’s “precious blood” but not in monetary value but as rare, one of a kind, unique blood. The only way to God.
- So it is with the husband honoring the wife. She is unique, one of a kind and rare among females.
- This includes words, attitude, and deeds.

συγκληρονομοι JOINT HEIRS

- Same privileges, rights and calling in Christ as husband in reference to “the grace of life”.
- This does not mean that men and women are the same. They are created differently for different purposes.
- This is obvious in the physical realm. But this difference is only for this age.
- Galatians 3:28 – in Christ natural differences such as race, gender and social standing do not matter.
- They do in the natural realm but not in the spiritual.
- Society in the first century AD didn’t teach this.
- This was a new and radical Christian way that believing men were to treat their wives.

χαριτος OF THE GRACE ζωης OF LIFE

εκκοπτεσθαι TO BE CUT OFF

This word means to “to cut in” or “to interrupt”

This word is used to describe the breaking up of a road to slow someone down.

1 Thessalonians 2:18 – Paul was “hindered” by Satan

Gal. 5:7 – Someone cut in and hindered the Galatians when Paul asks, “Who broke up the road for you?”

Spiritual warfare teaches us here that we must not let our prayers and fellowship with God be broken up because of our improper behavior with our wives in our homes, bedrooms, kitchens, garages, etc.

Failure to live in knowledge with his wife or to recognize her for who she is will result in an interruption in the husband’s prayers.

τας προσευχας υμων YOUR PRAYERS

“Your” refers to the husbands who are being addressed here. This is not a reference to both the husband and wife.