

Perseverance Under Pressure - Harmony in the Home – 1 Peter 3:1-7 – May 17, 2026

What society do you get when truth is rejected, church silenced, family begins to collapse?

The schemes of the devil are working - **The schemes of the devil are:**

Satan's deceptive strategy to tempt, divide, & draw people away from God's truth and will

I believe there are three areas the devil is most active in attacking...where he spends time

- Corruption of the Truth:** Twisting, suppressing, or replacing of God's revealed truth
 - Rejection of biblical authority – False Teachers – Confusion about morality and identity
 - Replace biblical authority with cultural opinion | Twist Scripture to justify sin
 - Preach prosperity instead of repentance and holiness | Turn worship into entertainment
- Opposition to the Church** - Any effort world, hinder worship, witness, and faithfulness
 - N Korea – Afghanistan – Somalia – Pakistan – Iran – Yemen – Libya = Christians dying
- Destruction of the Family** - Breakdown of God-designed relationships, and roles...home
 - Attacks on marriage – fatherlessness – confusion over roles – abuse and neglect

Look at how to defend our marriage against the schemes of the devil | Sensitive - Read

Historic house – Plastered cheap trends – 70's yellow walls – scrape...mahogany wood

- Cultural war zone - Modern world plastered its own "wallpaper" over concept marriage
- Culture tells us that marriage is a temporary contract based on self-fulfillment.
- Tells us that gender roles are oppressive, that absolute autonomy is the highest good

The world's wallpaper is peeling and failing right before our eyes

If you want something that lasts...get back to the mahogany wall...back to God's design

Big Idea - The gospel transforms the home by shaping both submission and sacrifice

- Submission** - Not as weakness / forced control...Christlike posture of trust and humility
- Sacrifice** - Because Jesus is the ultimate example of self-giving love – Others first

I'm going to talk to wives and husbands in turn and give honest biblical reasons marriage

1. Christian wives: Encourage your husbands walk (1-2)

³ 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.

"subject" isn't about inferiority; it's a military term meaning "to arrange oneself under."

Voluntary choice of yielding control for the sake of divine order and peace, mirroring Jesus Roman society, wife was legally and socially expected to adopt the religion of her husband

For a woman to choose Christ when her husband did not = radical, dangerous act courage

Peter does not tell these women to leave, nor does he tell them to compromise their faith

Instead, he gives them a strategy of divine influence: submission and godly character

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

Know what I've learned 48 years of being a man...no woman likes to be called a nag – Bite

Peter makes a fascinating statement: some people will be won over **"without words."**

There is a time for proclamation, but there is also a time for demonstration

No one has ever been argued or nagged into a relationship with Christ...have lifestyle

when they see your respectful and pure conduct

Peter highlights two specific qualities that catch the world's attention:

- Respectful:** This isn't fear of a harsh husband, but a deep, holy fear and respect for God
 - If you live with an unbelieving spouse...you do not have to agree to be respectful
 - Purity:** Moral integrity, holiness, faithfulness. Living a life that is clean / above reproach
- When unbelieving spouse sees your ultimate accountability is to God, changes the dynamic

Your life becomes a living apologetic—a visible proof that the gospel is real

How does the moon light up the night sky? It has no power source of its own...faces sun

Encourage their faith – Exemplify Christ – Engage in Prayer

2. Christian Wives: Exhibit your true work (3-4)

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.

This verse obviously says if you do your hair, wear jewelry, and wear nice clothes = Hell

Not forbidding external care...confronting *misplaced priority*—treating appearance identity

- Ancient world, elaborate hairstyles, gold jewelry, expensive clothing = status symbol
- True beauty is not defined by external decoration, but the internal transformation of heart
- Multi-billion-dollar obsession with image, and the exhausting chase for temporary beauty
- Have you ever seen a celebrity who has just overdone it with plastic surgery = Iguana
- Wherever identity built on appearance, insecurity grows...out = great | In = problem**
- What you decorate externally cannot fix what is disordered internally
- Let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart...

God is more concerned with formation than presentation

God's working deeper people can see; Spiritual maturity is often invisible before observable

the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious

Speaks of not frantic, self-defensive, domineering, but steady, trusting, and secure in God

A life anchored in God's approval is freed from the exhausting need for human approval

I like the movie 'The Notebook' – When was she most beautiful to him?

Outward beauty fades. Internal beauty deepens. Temporary admiration vs eternal value

The question Peter forces us to ask is simple: **What kind of beauty are you cultivating?**

3. Christian Wives: Exemplify your confident faith (5-6)

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.

Godly women display hope God...faithful submission, courageous obedience, and fearless trust

- Peter points backward to the examples of faithful women in Scripture - "holy women."
- These were women set apart for God. Imperfect women, yet women shaped by faith
- Notice what defined them: Not beauty – status – influence – personality...hoped in God
- ...by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham...

Sarah example: Not perfect – Doubted – Struggled Fear | Life of respect for husband & God

- Submission is not a dirty word: Christ to Father – Citizens to Government | Members
- Submission Scripture is not slavery, silence, or inferiority...voluntary under God's order
- Abraham left his homeland, Sarah went with him - Life became unstable, Sarah trusted Him
- Biblical submission is not weakness—it is strength under control motivated by trust in God
- Peter says she "obeyed Abraham, calling him lord." – Gen. 18 – **Direct command women**

- Peter is not commanding women to use certain titles for their husbands.
- He is emphasizing the posture of Sarah's heart—a heart marked by honor and respect
- Both genders: Do not defame your spouse publicly or privately – King of Queens
- And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening

Fear = struggles in relationships: Losing control – Mistreated – Vulnerability – Uncertainty

Peter says godly women are marked not by panic, but by faithful courage

This does not mean ignoring danger or enabling abuse

Scripture never commands remain under physical harm / sinful oppression w/o seeking help

Sarah: Barrenness – Wandering – Famine – Foreign King – Uncertainty = Trusting God/Man

Takeaway - Display Christ through your submission and inward godliness

Respect through Submission - Radiance through Sanctification – Reverence through serenity

1. Christian Husbands: Prioritize your wife's honor (7a)

⁷ Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel

- Culture confuses masculinity with dominance, passivity, or selfishness...all three = bad
- Biblical manhood is not harsh—holy. Not about power over a wife, but responsibility
- Husband's leadership is not measured by how loudly he speaks...how faithfully he loves

Christian husband is not merely a provider or protector—shepherd of grace within home

- “Understanding way” means to live with wisdom, knowledge, and thoughtful care
A godly husband studies his wife—not to control her, but to care for her well
Emotions – Burdens – Fears – Strengths – Spiritual / Emotional / Physical Needs

Husbands bc experts in careers, hobbies, sports...while remaining strangers to wives – **Jim**
showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel – **Love calling Autumn 'Weaker Vessel'**

The word “honor” means value, dignity, and precious worth | **Tin Plate vs Fine China**

Peter commands husbands to treat their wives as treasured gifts, not common possessions

Speaking respectfully - Refusing belittling speech - Protecting emotionally and spiritually
Appreciating her sacrifices - Valuing her counsel - Treating her with dignity

- ‘Weaker Vessel’ - Not women spiritually inferior, intellectually lesser, or less valuable
Most natural interpretation = Not as physically strong | **Ronda / Gina Carano** | **Sports**
Anytime you weaponize your strength against your spouse it's sinful

Would Say she's honored by me – Words build up / tear Down – Leadership = Fear or Joy

2. Christian Husbands: Prevent your walk from hindrance (7b)

since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

One of the clearest indicators of man's spiritual condition is how lovingly he treats his wife

- Peter connects two things: Husband's relationship with his wife - Relationship with God
A man cannot claim intimacy with God while dishonoring the woman God entrusted to him
Equal Heirs of Grace – Eternal Sisters in Christ – Worthy of Honor and Care

A. Recognize Your Wife's Spiritual Equality - Since they are heirs with you of the grace of life
Though God has given different roles in marriage, He has not assigned different value

A Christian wife: Receives the same grace - Possesses the same salvation
Shares the same inheritance - Is equally loved by Christ

Your wife not merely: Your helper – companion - Mother of your children...sister in Christ

Husbands we don't treat our wives as servants but as saints

B. Remember the Seriousness of Spiritual Neglect - that your prayers may not be hindered

- This is one of the strongest warnings to husbands in the New Testament
Peter says a man's mistreatment of his wife can disrupt his fellowship with God
Ignore your wife - Belittle your wife - wound your wife - Refuse forgiveness – Not answer
Being in a marriage is serious business...if not taken seriously...serious consequences

Takeaway - Demonstrate humble honor toward your spouse in every season

- Pursue Them with Patience** - Humbly honor your spouse by responding with grace
- Listen carefully, remaining steadfast through difficult seasons instead reacting harshly
- Prioritize Them with Sacrifice** - Demonstrate honor by placing your spouse's needs, encouragement, and spiritual growth above selfish ambition or personal comfort.
- Praise Them with Your Words** - Speak respectfully, affirm their value, and build them up publicly and privately, especially during seasons of stress or struggle

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