

The Unfading Beauty of a Gentle and Quiet Spirit

1 Peter 3:1–7

WHAT IS TRUE, AND WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO?

Inner beauty far exceeds that of outer beauty. Wives should focus on developing a gentle and quiet spirit while also respecting and positively influencing their husbands toward a Christ-centered life. Husbands, in turn, should treat their wives with care and show them honor.¹

1. Commands to Wives (v. 1–6)

- A. Submit yourselves to your husbands
- B. Cultivate inner beauty, not an outward appearance
 - a. Outward beauty fades, but not the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit.
 - b. It is inner beauty and virtue that may lead a non-Christian husband to Christ.
 - c. This passage is not a total ban on jewelry, cosmetics, or nice clothes. See Proverbs 31:22. It speaks to extremes that distract from true inner beauty, which should be avoided.²

2. Commands to Husbands (v. 7)

- A. Be patient and considerate of your wives
- B. Treat them with honor
- C. Failure to be responsible for the needs of the wife causes a break in communication between the husband and God

Note: “Weaker” does not imply that wives are morally or intellectually inferior to their husbands. Peter speaks of physical weakness.

CONCLUSION:

Back in 2:11–25, Peter explained that believers should act in an exemplary manner before the unbelieving world. He tells them (and us) to be subject “to every authority instituted among men” (2:13); he then described three areas of that authority: citizens to the government (2:13–17), slaves to masters (2:18–20), and wives to husbands (3:1–7).³ Anarchy results if there is no authority. As Christians, we should not rebel against authority but work within the system and serve God. The main message of this passage to women is to pursue the unfading beauty of a quiet and gentle spirit. For men, live in harmony with your wife and show them honor as fellow inheritors of salvation and its privileges.

¹ Jim Samra, James, 1 & 2 Peter, and Jude, Teach the Text Commentary Series (Grand Rapids: Baker Books: A Division of Baker Publishing Group, 2016), 142

² Bruce B. Barton, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Jude, Life Application Bible Commentary (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Pub., 1995), 79.

³ Ibid.