

Sermon Notes 9/21/2025

# **The Perfect Marriage**

## **El matrimonio perfecto**

### **Biblical Principles for a Perfect Marriage**

### **Principios bíblicos para un matrimonio perfecto**

1. Focus on what \_\_\_\_\_ says to you.  
Concéntrate en lo que \_\_\_\_\_ te dice.

1 Peter 3:1-2 (1 Pedro 3:1-2)

Matthew 7:3-5 (Mateo 7:3-5)

James 1:23-25 (Santiago 1:23-25)

2. Guard the beauty of your \_\_\_\_\_.  
Guarda la belleza de tu \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Peter 3:3-4 (1 Pedro 3:3-4)

Proverbs 4:23-24 (Proverbios 4:23-24)

Philippians 4:6-7 (Filipenses 4:6-7)

3. Show love and \_\_\_\_\_ to one another.  
Muestren amor y \_\_\_\_\_ unos a otros.

1 Peter 3:7 (1 Pedro 3:7)

Ephesians 5:25-27 (Efesios 5:25-27)

Ephesians 5:31-33 (Efesios 5:31-33)



# Life Group Discussion Questions

**Week 5: September 21**

**1 Peter 3:1-7**

In the last part of chapter 2, Peter told his readers to be in submission to civil government even though most of the civil leaders were pagans who were suspicious of Christians (2:13-14). He also told Christian slaves to be in submission to their masters even if those masters were harsh or unjust. In chapter 3, Peter addressed a similar situation some Christian wives were facing in their marriages. Sometimes when a pagan family or couple heard the gospel, the wife would become a Christian, but the husband would remain a pagan. In 1 Corinthians 7:12-13, Paul told Christians who were married to unbelievers to remain married. But how can a husband and wife have a healthy marriage when their beliefs and values are so different from each other? Peter gives us the answer to that question in 1 Peter 3:1-7.

## **Read 1 Peter 3:1-7**

1. What did Peter tell wives to do in verse 1?
2. How can a Christian wife convert her unbelieving husband? (3:1-2)

Former atheist, Lee Strobel became a Christian in 1981 after conducting a thorough investigation into the claims of Christianity. The thing that motivated him was the positive changes he saw in his wife when she became a Christian. Strobel writes,

Leslie stunned me in the autumn of 1979 by announcing that she had become a Christian. I rolled my eyes and braced for the worst, feeling like the victim of a bait-and-switch scam. I had married one Leslie—the fun Leslie, the carefree Leslie, the risk-taking Leslie—and now I feared she was going to turn into some sort of sexually repressed prude who would trade our upwardly mobile lifestyle for all-night prayer vigils and volunteer work in grimy soup kitchens. Instead, I was pleasantly surprised—even fascinated—by the fundamental changes in her character, her integrity, and her personal confidence. Eventually I wanted to get to the bottom of what was prompting these subtle but significant shifts in my wife's attitudes, so I launched an all-out investigation into the facts surrounding the case for Christianity. (Strobel, 14)

3. What did Peter say about outward adornment in verse 3?
4. According to verse 4, what qualities of a wife are precious to God?
5. Why is inward beauty better than outward adornment? (3:3-4)
6. How did holy women in the past make themselves beautiful? (3:5)
7. How is Sarah a good example for Christian wives to follow? (3:6)
8. Why should we “do what is right without being frightened”? (3:6)

Allen Black observes,

The daughters of Sarah are those who follow her example in submitting to their husbands as she did to Abraham. They remain her daughters as long as they continue to “do what is right,” a concept often repeated by Peter (cf. 2:15,20; 3:10-12,13-14,17; 4:18-19). Those who do what is right have to refuse to listen to their fears of other people (cf. 3:14), including non-Christian husbands’ attempts to intimidate them. (Black, 89)

9. What did Peter tell husbands to do in verse 7?
10. Why must husbands treat their wives with respect and honor? (3:7)
11. Why does God give different instructions to husbands and wives?

Jack Cottrell writes,

This passage from Peter’s first letter stresses the difference between men and women by giving instructions to wives and to husbands. It tells us how wives should relate to their husbands, and vice versa. It shows us that men and women are different in many ways, yet alike in others. The key to a happy home, and the key to pleasing God as husbands and wives, lies in understanding this and putting it into practice. (Cottrell, 204)

12. What does God mean when He tells us to be submissive to someone?

Wayne Grudem notes,

Jesus was subject both to his parents and to God the Father, and Christians who are highly honored in God’s sight are still commanded to be subject to unbelieving government authorities

and masters. Thus, the command to wives to be subject to their husbands should never be taken to imply inferior personhood or spirituality, or lesser importance. Indeed, Peter affirms just the opposite: wives are “joint heirs of the grace of life” (v. 7). Moreover, the general scriptural principle of obedience to authorities “except when commanded to sin” also applies here. (Grudem, 145)

13. How would you reply to the challenge that the Bible’s instructions about submission are outdated and don’t apply in our culture today?

Peter gave instructions about three authority/submission relationships: government and citizens 2:13-17, masters and slaves 2:18-20, husbands and wives 3:1-7. In each case Peter tells Christians to be in submission to those who are in authority. This is assuming that our submission to human authorities will not contradict our submission to God (Acts 5:29). God did not create the master/slave relationship. But since slavery was an unavoidable reality for many Christians, God had to tell them how to live as Christian slaves. Unlike slavery, Marriage was God’s idea “from the beginning” (Matt. 19:4). We can trust God’s consistent instructions about marriage to be His design for marriage in every century and every culture (Eph. 5:22-24; Col. 3:18; Titus 2:5; 1 Peter 3:1-6).

14. What does it mean to be heirs of the gracious gift of life?

15. How might the way a man treats his wife hinder his prayers?

16. Why is the marriage relationship so important?

17. What will you do this week to develop your inner character?

18. How can you be a witness for Christ with your actions this week?

#### **Sources cited:**

Black, Allen, and Mark Black. *1 & 2 Peter*. College Press, 1998.

Cottrell, Jack. *Studies in First Peter*. Christian Restoration Association, 2017.

Grudem, Wayne. *1 Peter*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2009.

Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ: A Journalist’s Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus*. Zondervan, 2016.