

1 Peter 3:1-6

Verse 1

In the same way - Primarily referring to Christ and His submission in 2:21-25.

You wives be submissive to your own husbands – Peter speaks specifically of wives to their own husbands, not to men generically. A wife has a special relationship to her husband that is different from all other relationships with men.

Why should wives submit to their husbands? The Bible gives two major reasons:

1 – It is God's will (Ephesians 5:22, Colossians 3:18, Titus 2:4-5).

2 – It is God's created order (Genesis 2:18-23, 3:16, 1 Timothy 2:13-14).

So that:

-even if any of them are disobedient to the word... This is probably speaking of unbelieving husbands.

-they may be won without a word...

-by the behavior of their wives – A wife's behavior, in contrast to her speech, will be more influential in winning her husband to the Lord.

Verse 2

As they observe your chaste and respectful behavior - God has put the rightness of role distinction in the hearts of all mankind. When unbelieving husbands see this behavior and attitude in their wives it draws them to Christ.

Chaste = Pure and free from moral defilement.

Verse 3

And let not your adornment be merely external – *Adornment* refers to the focus of attention for one's attractiveness. The word is *kosmos* from which we get the word "cosmetics". It is the same word that is translated "world" 186 times in passages like John 3:16. Only here in 1 Peter is it translated *adornment*.

External – three examples:

1- Braiding the hair

2- Wearing gold jewelry

3- Putting on dresses

Peter's point is not that any of these things are forbidden, but that they should not be a woman's only "adorning", or source of beauty.

Verse 4

But let it be the hidden person of the heart – This is the wife's true personality that is not outwardly visible except through words and actions which reflect her inner attitudes.

With the imperishable quality – This word is always used of things of heavenly quality that will not fade away with time.

What is the imperishable quality?

A gentle and quiet spirit – The word "gentle" (Matthew 5:5, 11:29, 21:5) means "not insistent on one's own rights, not pushy or selfishly assertive, not demanding one's own way".

"Quiet" is used only here and 1 Timothy 2:2 and has the idea of "tranquil or peaceable".

Which is precious in the sight of God – The word *precious* carries the idea of something "very costly or of great worth or of excellent value". It is only used here and in Mark 14:3 and 1 Timothy 2:9. The phrase "in the sight of God" is used often in the New Testament and usually in context of observable behavior (James 1:17).

Verse 5

For in this way in former times – Peter recalls the godly women of the Old Testament *who hoped in God* as an example of verses 3 and 4. Part of their "adornment" was being submissive to their own husbands.

Verse 6

Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord – The point is that Sarah verbally expressed her submission to Abraham in a way that was appropriate in her culture. Her submission to Abraham meant trusting God in uncertain, unpleasant, and often dangerous situations.

And you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear – These women show that they are truly women of faith (Sarah's children) when their behavior models hers.

Frightened by any fear – The word for "fear" in this verse is only used here in the New Testament. It literally means "to be afraid of with terror". A godly woman who follows the example of Sarah will not be terrified by circumstances or by an unbelieving or disobedient husband.

Three reasons a Christian wife should submit to her husband:

- 1- Submission is an OBLIGATION – Verse 1a
- 2- Submission is an OPPORTUNITY – Verse 1b-2
- 3- Submission is an ORNAMENT –Verses 3-6

How do you accomplish this?

- 1- Analyze your actions - 3:1-2
- 2- Watch your adornment – 3:3
- 3- Check your attitude – 3:4
- 4- Evaluate your attention – 3:5-6