

“Lower Thirds” Material

2/14/21

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Genesis 1 God made mankind in his image and after his likeness.

Genesis 1 is an overview; **Genesis 2** gives the details.

God established an order within marriage. He formed Adam first and commissioned him as king, priest, and prophet. Then, God made Eve, from Adam and for Adam as *helper* to serve in those same capacities. Both roles are God-like.

Genesis 3 Eve defies God’s one command. Adam follows her into sin. They are suddenly filled with shame.

3:16 “Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.” (cf. **4:7**)

The bliss of your complementary roles as head and helper will now become a blister in a tug-of-war for control.

The battle of the sexes.

The Spirit-filled Life – Ephesians 5

Paul presents four marks of a Spirit-filled believer in **vv. 18-21**. #4 - *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

Mutual submission applied to marriage in **vv. 22-33**: *Wives, submit yourself (your choice) to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church... Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her...husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies...“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

1 Peter 3:1-7

At least 34 instances of key Greek terms from **chapters 1:1-2:12** woven into **vv. 1-7**. Peter applies gospel theology to the marriage relationship.

(NIV) Wives, in the same way (Jesus’ example **2:21-25**) submit yourselves (**2:13; 2:18**) to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not **believe** (lit. “obey” **1:2** *obedience to Jesus Christ; 1:22* *obeying the truth*) **THE word** (**1:23** *the living abiding word of God; 1:25* *the word of the Lord...this word is the good news*), they may be won over without words by the **behavior** (**1:12** *conduct yourselves; 2:12* *honorable conduct among the Gentiles*) of their wives, when **they see** (**2:12** *they may see your good deeds*) the **purity** (**1:22** *souls purified; pure heart*) and **reverence** (**1:17** *reverent fear as exiles; 2:17* *fear God; 2:18* *in reverent fear*) of your **lives** (**1:12** *conduct yourselves; 2:12* *honorable conduct*).

Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your **inner self** (**1:22** *sincere love from a pure heart*), the **unfading** (**1:4** *never fade; 1:23* *imperishable seed*) beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.

For this is the way the **holy** (**1:15-16** *be holy as God is holy, 2:9* *holy nation*) women of the past who put their **hope in God** (**1:3** *born again into a living hope; 1:13* *set your hope; 1:21* *hope in God; 2:23* *Christ’s example of entrusting himself to the Father who judges justly*) used to adorn themselves.

They **submitted themselves** (**2:13; 2:18**) to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you **do what is right** (**2:12** *good deeds among Gentiles; 2:14, 15* *doing right/good; 2:20* *doing good*) and do not give way to fear.

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with **respect** (**1:7** *honor; 1:19* *precious blood; 2:4* *precious to God; 2:6* *chosen and precious; 2:7* *stone is precious/ our honor; 2:17* *honor everyone...honor the king*) as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands...

Peter addresses women as independent moral agents able to think and decide for themselves.

...so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives...

“won over” - used in the NT to describe success in missionary work (**Matthew 18:15; 1 Corinthians 9:19-22**),

Husbands are better influenced visually than verbally.

...Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, 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...

Peter is talking here about emphasis.

A woman’s true worth and beauty is as an image bearer of God, uniquely and extraordinarily, handmade by God (**Psalms 139:13-16**).

If a wife is a cantankerous, contentious, quarrelsome, nagging woman, her outward beauty is only a curse (**Proverbs 19:13; 21:9, 19; 25:24; 27:15-16**).

...For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear...

“holy” harkens back to “be holy as God is holy”

“put their hope in God” harkens back to the example of Jesus

Genesis 18

v. 12 “After I am worn out and my lord is old?”

“obeyed” 1) to follow; 2) to submit to instruction; 3) to grant a request; 4) to answer a knock at the door and allow the person in. The Theological Dictionary of NT Words lists as the #1 definition - “to hearken at the door, to open.”

...Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives...

“in the same way” connects back to the command for wives to submit, as well as to Christ’s example

“live with” – a phrase used in Scripture to speak of sexual relations in marriage (**Deuteronomy 22:13; 24:1; 25:5**), though it’s certainly not limited to that

“be considerate” (lit. according to knowledge) – used throughout the Bible with reference to sexual intercourse, in the sense of a husband “knowing” his wife

...and treat them with respect as the weaker partner...

“weaker” – physically weaker, more vulnerable

“respect” = *honor* (Christ’s blood and as God’s Chosen One; our honor as God’s children and royal priests).

...and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers...

Two-fold motivation

1) Fellow heir

2) Hindered prayer

Proverbs 13:12 *Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.*