

1 PETER

EXILED

STANDING FIRM IN GOD'S GRACE



The Design of Marriage

1 Peter 3.1-7

Main Idea

Just as God has designed roles within the community at large He has designed the husband to take the role of leadership and the wife to submit to that leadership in the marriage for God's glory and their good.

Overview

I. **Wives be subject to your own husbands**

- The text (Bible) references that wives are to submit to their husbands: Not women to men
- Wives (women) are not less valuable than men:
 - 1 Peter 3.7 says they are CO-heirs with husbands (cf. Gn. 1:27 where BOTH are created in God's image)
- Being subject does NOT mean:
 - She has to agree with everything
 - She can't think for herself
 - She has to stop all attempts to change her husband
 - She has to put the will of her husband above Christ's
 - She has to only get her spiritual strength from her husband
 - She should live in fear of her husband
- What it does mean is that wives should have a disposition to trust their husbands leadership
 - A wife need not remain in the same location of an abusive husband
- Among wives who have unbelieving husbands: They should:
 - Live lives of quiet and respectful submission that they may be won without words:
 - Means: Not be nagging but let the testimony of the Gospel be coupled with a beautiful life that would melt his heart
 - NOT: By trying to look like the world with gold and braids:
 - But let their inwards hearts produce and imperishable beauty
 - This is how holy women who hoped in God adorned themselves
 - As evident in Sarah's obedience to Abraham...calling him lord:
 - "lord" (lower case "l"): Term of authority, like "sir" "ma'am"
 - Wives that do this are considered Sarah's children
 - Do Good, wives
 - Don't fear anything that is frightening
 - Don't fear any harm that may come to you but Hope in God as the holy women did

II. **Husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way**

- Literally reads: "Live together with them according to knowledge"
 - Knowledge in Scripture typically is in accordance with the knowledge of God
 - Admonition: Bring the Knowledge of God to bear upon your wives

- Eph. 5.25: Love your wives as Christ loved the church:
 - He was willing to love deeply enough to sacrifice Himself in order to bring honor to His wife
 - Show honor to them in the way you speak of them, treat them, etc.:
 - This is what Christ did to His wife
- Weaker Vessel= Physical Strength:
 - Husbands should protect their wives due to potential suffering as Christians
- Husbands that don't use their authority in this way will have their prayers hindered

Questions

Discussion Starter: *What has been your experience of this issue? What do you feel is the general take of what the Bible teaches about this subject in our culture?*

1. Read 2:11-3:7. How do you see the subjection that is called for in Chapter two leading up to Chap 3 (this is a letter that wasn't broken up in chapters and verses). Given this...what is Subjection NOT? What IS it?
2. How do the roles in marriage reflect the character of God and Christ's love for the church?
3. What is about authority and submission, especially in marriage, that many of us bristle at? Why are we tempted to fight against this teaching, yet heartily endorse others like the one preceding this one in 1 Peter 2.21-25?
4. How can 'respectful & pure' conduct be coupled with the proclamation of the Gospel such that it wins people to Christ 'without words'?
5. How does Peter commend wives to be 'adorned'? How is this different than what we hear in society at large?
6. Describe 'holy women' as laid out by Peter. How did they 'do good' and 'not fear'? What does this look like?
7. How can husbands 'live with their wives in an understanding way'? Why is this important?
8. What are some ways they can show honor to their wives? What does it mean for wives to be a 'weaker vessel'?
9. Why would God have a husband's prayers hindered if they weren't doing this?
10. For the unmarried, why should you even care all about these things now?

Accountability Question: *For ladies/wives: What are some ways you struggle to submit...or, if you aren't married, what are some ways you foresee being difficult to submit? Is there something you do or wear that is an attempt to adorn outward beauty and not inward beauty?*

For guys/husbands: In what way do you or could you struggle to honor your wife? Are there things you are doing to adorn yourself from the outward instead of the inward beauty? (The latter question is derived from the text where it clearly references wives, however the question still can apply)