

1 Peter 3:1-7

Verse 1

- The verse starts with the words “in the same way” and then addresses wives being submissive to their husbands. The “in the same way” is referring back to **1 Peter 2:13** regarding the general principle of submission for the Lord’s sake.
- Peter is speaking to wives that are part of the chosen exiles in Asia Minor.
- Some of the wives have husbands that are pagans and they too are commanded to be submissive to their pagan husbands. The ultimate goal of their submission and respect to their non-believing husbands would be that God would use their godly behavior as an instrumental cause in bringing the truth of the Gospel to their husbands. They are to be an ambassador for Christ through their submissive and respectable actions even to their Pagan husbands and that their light would shine before them to bring honor and glory to God.
- Peter had previously given an example in **1 Peter 2:18-20** about being respectful and submissive to those in authority even if being treated unreasonably. This is a real possibility to the wife who is married to a non-believer but can also be the case when married to a believer. In either situation, the married wife is to be submissive to her husband for the Lord’s sake.
- Being submissive does not mean inferiority. The husband and wife are joined as one flesh (**Genesis 2:24**).
- The husband and wife are equals but have different roles.
- Submissive does not mean inferior. God is one being, but three divine persons. Each person (Father, Son, Spirit) is co-equal and co-eternal, but they have different roles. No true Christian would say that Jesus was inferior to the Father (Jesus is God), but the Bible tells us that the Son was in submission to the Father and His will. Jesus stated on several occasions that He came to earth as He was sent by the Father to do His will (**John 5:30, John 8:29, John 10:17-18, Luke 22:42, John 4:34, John 14:31**). The Father sent the Son to die, the Son humbled Himself and emptied Himself as He was sent by the Father. He humbled Himself and became obedient to death on a cross as this was the will of the Father which pleased Him. Jesus who is God accomplished the work which the Father gave Him to do (**John 17:4**). Jesus had a different role than the Father and the Spirit, but each person in the Godhead is equal. This is the same with the roles in marriage. Even though the wife is commanded to be submissive, this does not mean she is inferior (as Christ was not inferior, but equal to the Father) but rather has a different role as delegated by God.
- A wife is to be submissive to her husband as to the Lord (**Eph 5:22**). To not be submissive to her husband would be non-submission and disobedience to God.
- The exception is just as it was in submitting to governing or ruling authorities: don’t submit to anything or do anything that God forbids in His word. We must please God, rather than man.

Verse 2

The behavior that the wife is to demonstrate is pure and respectful behavior to her husband. It is this behavior that can be used by God to be a witness to the Gospel to the unbelieving husband. This is the behavior that the wife who has a believing husband is to show as well.

Verses 3-4

- Peter is stating that the adornment of the women is not merely on the outward appearance. The wife is not to be consumed with the outward appearance or to dress inappropriately. The true beauty of the believing wife is found in the regenerate heart that is accompanied by a gentle and quiet spirit. Although the outward beauty may fade, the inner beauty of the heart that has been born again and is being sanctified will not fade, but rather continue to be more beautiful each day.
- Peter has used the word “imperishable” multiple times already in 1 Peter.
 - **1 Peter 1:4** Imperishable inheritance
 - **1 Peter 1:23** Imperishable seed which is the word of God
- The quality of a gentle and quiet spirit is an imperishable quality which is precious in the sight of God.

Verses 5-6

Godly and holy women in the Bible in the same way adorned themselves with a submissive, quiet, and gentle spirit to their husbands. One of the examples that Peter uses is Sarah and her submissive behavior to Abraham. Those who are submissive to their husbands are considered “Sarah’s children” in the sense that they resemble her actions in their submission to their husband. Peter also encourages those wives whose husbands were Pagans to continue to be obedient to God in all actions and not compromise in Godly actions out of threats or fear from the unbelieving husband.

Verse 7

- Husbands are to live in an understanding way to their wives.
- The reference to weaker vessels is the general physical strength advantage of the man over the women and not weaker in the sense of inferior.
- The husband is to show honor to his wife as she is a fellow heir of the grace of God. This speaks to the equality and unity of a Christian marriage. The husband and wife have different roles, but there are no superior or inferior labels as they are equal heirs with God.
- As shown in **Ephesians 5:25**, the husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her.
- If the marriage instruction that God has given is compromised, the marriage relationship will be impacted. When the marriage relationship is impacted and not under God’s instruction and design, then the spiritual relationship with God including prayers can be impacted and hindered.
- There is nothing more beautiful than a husband and wife honoring, respecting, and fulfilling their designated roles given by God. This will result in being an example to their children.

Other passages on the roles of marriage:

- **Ephesians 5:22-33**
- **Colossians 3:18-19**

The Bible does not tell husbands to love your wife as Christ loved the Church and to be ready to lay your life down for her only when she is submissive. The Bible does not tell wives to only be submissive when your husband loves them like Christ loves the Church. Husbands are to love their wives like Christ loved the Church even when she isn’t submissive and does not display a quiet and gentle spirit. Wives are to be submissive to their husbands even when he doesn’t love her as he should. Each is commanded to be obedient in their roles as unto the Lord even if the other person is not fulfilling their role.