

A HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITY

Sunday, December 14, 2025 -- 1 PETER series -- msg 23 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

1 PETER 3:1

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 *Likewise, **wives**, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct. 3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— 4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. 5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening. 7 Likewise, **husbands**, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.*

REVIEW & CONTEXT:

Peter's overarching theme is HOLY LIVING amid suffering and exile.

- **Ch. 1–2:12:** Christians are a chosen people, set apart to declare God's excellencies even while living as *sojourners and exiles* in a hostile culture.
- **Ch. 2:13-3:12:** Peter now applies holiness to **social relationships** — government, work, marriage, and the church — showing that submission is not weakness but spiritual strength that glorifies God.
- First we studied submission in government and employment... now marriage.
- **Why are 6 verses directed at wives but 1 directed at husbands?**
 - 1) Because in Peter's day women were viewed as inferior to men.
 - 2) When wives became Christians without their husbands it created real conflict.
 - 3) This was viewed as an extreme act of defiance that brought embarrassment and shame.
 - 4) Because in Roman society (like our society) women were severely objectified. Their wealth facilitated widespread obsession with appearance and sexualization.
 - 5) The 'world of women' as opposed to the 'world of men' is more complex. (their bodies, their chemistry, their intuition, their relationships, their processing)
 - 6) The nature of feminine appearance and attraction in regards to godliness versus worldliness is a complicated and powerful aspect of humanity's fall into sin.
 - 7) **See Sarah's example!** Though not perfect, she was godly in a wild ride faith and marriage characterized by blessings, trouble, pain, disappointments and tests.

*7 Likewise, **husbands**, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.*

STRONGER ON PURPOSE: A HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITY

1. HE TOO IS TO SUBMIT — but differently. vs 7 “Likewise, husbands...”

- A) Peter does **not** change subjects; he continues the same Christ-shaped ethic of submission.
- B) Submission in Scripture is not weakness but strength rightly ordered under God's design.
- C) If **wives** reflect Christ's willing submission to the Father, then **husbands** must reflect **Christ's sacrificial love and responsibility**.

NOTICE: Submission does not disappear when authority increases — it deepens.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5–8

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

John 6:38 *For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.*

Luke 22:42 *Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.*

Ephesians 5:21 *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

Ephesians 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,*

2. A GODLY HUSBAND COMES TO KNOW THE SITUATIONAL DYNAMICS.

‘Likewise husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way’

- A) This Greek phrase literally means live according to knowledge.
- B) Husbands are commanded to study, know, and understand their wives.
- C) Biblical leadership is not ignorant, harsh, or detached — it is attentive and informed.

NOTICE: Ignorance is not masculine leadership; but understanding is.

A husband needs to understand his wife's:

- Emotional design and vulnerability
- Differences in communication and stress response
- Fears, strengths, needs, and burdens
- Seasons of life and physical realities

COLOSSIANS 3:19 *Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.*

ROMANS 12:10 *Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.*
(If this is true for the church at large, how much MORE should it apply to your family?)

A true, maturing Christian is a diligent, lifelong LEARNER.

Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...*

John 8:31-32 *If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

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3. A HUSBAND IS **STRONGER** FOR A **GODLY PURPOSE**.

vs 7 showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel

- A) “Weaker vessel” refers primarily to **physical strength** and **vulnerability**, not value, intellect, or spirituality.
- B) Scripture acknowledges biological reality while commanding **moral responsibility**.

Clarifications:

Not moral weakness
 Not spiritual inferiority
 Not lesser worth

NOTICE: God gives men greater strength not so they may take more — but so they may **give more**.

To Honor Means:

Protection rather than intimidation
 Gentleness rather than harshness
 Sacrificial restraint rather than domination
 Creating emotional and relational safety

Genesis 2:15; Romans 15:1; Ephesians 5:28–29; Matthew 20:25–28

4. A HUSBAND AND WIFE HAVE **EQUAL WORTH** BUT **DISTINCT ROLES**.

vs 7 since they are heirs with you of the grace of life

- A) Peter explicitly grounds marriage in **shared spiritual inheritance**.
- B) Husbands and wives are equal in:

Grace
Salvation
Eternal destiny
Image-bearing

NOTICE: Authority in marriage is never ownership — it is **stewardship**.

Look at the **SON** in the Trinity/God-head

Equality of nature does not erase distinction of role.
 The Son submits to the Father without loss of dignity or deity.

Galatians 3:28; 1 Corinthians 11:3; John 1:1; 14:9; Hebrews 1:3

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5. A SERIOUS WARNING — SPIRITUAL ACCOUNTABILITY TO GOD.

- A) A husband's relationship with God is directly affected by how he treats his wife.
- B) Spiritual leadership cannot be separated from relational faithfulness.

Warning to Husbands:

Harshness blocks prayer

Neglect dulls spiritual authority

Abuse invites divine opposition (directly or indirectly)

NOTICE: A man cannot dishonor his wife and expect God to hear him or bless him.

MALACHI 2:13–16

13 And this second thing you do. You cover the Lord's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. 14 But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. 15 Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

Matthew 5:23–24; Psalm 66:18; James 5:16

SUMMARY OF 1 PETER 3:1-7 — SUBMISSION IN MARRIAGE:

The Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Peter, is calling us...

- to live according to God's ways (holiness) not worldliness.
- to show the world Christ as submitting wives and sacrificing husbands.

Wives reflect Christ's willing submission.

Husbands reflect Christ sacrificial love.

Scripture places the greater burden on the one with the greater strength.

Luke 12:48 — Jesus said: *'to whom much is given, much will be required'*

Magic and Revealing Words in Marriage:

- to a wife → "I LOVE YOU" the need to be cherished.
- to a husband → "THANK YOU" the need to be respected.

1 JOHN 4:9–10

*"In this the love of God was revealed among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us **and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**"*

(ransom price)