

SUBMISSION IN MARRIAGE — A DOOZY PART 2

Sunday, December 7, 2025 -- 1 PETER series -- msg 22 -- 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 we come to marriage.

CONTEXT of this Passage-- Why 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) Peter, like the Apostle Paul, was writing against the godless cultural forces that opposed God's design in marriage and mature, godly relationships.
- 6) Unlike today, men tended to be leaders. They just had to be taught to lead in a godly way. We must realize that today while men are still dominant, they are often not leaders.
WHY?

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.*

1) SUBMISSION in the HOUSEHOLD -- Christ's EXAMPLE on Display vs 1-2

Christ's spirit of HUMBLE STRENGTH...

Though equal to the Father, He voluntarily submitted Himself to God's role for Him.

John 5:19; 6:38; 8:28-29; 14:28; Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 5:7-8; Luke 22:42; 1 Corinthians 11:3

Submission is a relational posture, not a value or ability statement.

Purpose: win unbelieving husbands by actions more than words.

Going with the grain of God's design instead of against the grain of the Fall.

Genesis 3:16 *Your desire will be for your husband but he will rule over you.*

Godly conduct can open closed hearts. Submission is a missionary strategy, not suppression.

2) TRUE ADORNMENT OF WOMEN -- Internal more than external. vs 3-4

WHAT NOT TO DO: vs 3

Roman culture was preoccupied with appearance. (status, sensual, suggestive)

Don't be like the pagans.

WHAT TO DO: vs 4

Christian culture is to keep appearance in a respectful place. (modest, humble, kempt)

1 TIMOTHY 2:9-10

9 likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, 10 but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

Your REAL SELF is what matters to God and godly people. vs 4 *"the hidden person of the heart"*

Physical beauty will fade. Spiritual beauty will season and bloom.

with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious

EXAMPLES OF HOLY WOMEN of the PAST SHOULD BE YOUR TRUE MODELS. vs 5-6

Their beauty was in their faith in God. *the holy women who hoped in God*

Their strength was in embracing God's design. *submitting to their own husbands*

IMPERFECT SARAH with IMPERFECT ABRAHAM. vs 6

Though sinners they displayed faith and godliness in the way they lived.

Sarah lived in faith, not fear.

Sarah fulfilled her role when there was many opportunities leave God's plan.

APPLICATION:

Biblical submission for women (and everyone else!) is courage-based.

Study Sarah's life -- how can you be like her to display the glory of Christ?