

Godly Women and Godly Men

I Peter 3:1- 7

INTRODUCTION:

All Stand and Read Scripture

1 Peter 3:1-7 (NASB)

3 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, ² as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. ³ Your adornment must not be *merely* external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; ⁴ but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. ⁵ For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; ⁶ just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

⁷ You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Prayer

ILLUSTRATION:

A desperate woman wrote Tech Support:

Dear Tech Support,

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a distinct slowdown in the overall system performance, particularly in the flower and jewelry applications. In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5, and then installed undesirable programs such as Newspaper 5.0, TV News 3.0 and Baseball Games 4.1.

Conversation 8.0 no longer runs.

Please note that I have tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail. What can I do?

Signed,

Desperate Woman

The tech department replied:

Dear Desperate Woman,

First, keep in mind, Boyfriend 5.0 is an Entertainment Package while Husband 1.0 is an older more reliable operating system. Please enter command: IThoughtYouLovedMe.html and try to download Tears 6.2. And don't forget to install the Guilt 3.0 update.

If those applications work as designed, Husband1.0 should then automatically run the applications Jewelry 2.0 and Flowers 3.5.

However, remember, overuse of the above applications can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0 or Beer 6.1.

Whatever you do, DO NOT under any circumstances install Mother-In-Law 1.0 (it runs a virus in the background that will eventually seize control of all your system resources.) In summary, Husband 1.0 is a decent program, but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance.

For faster turnaround, we recommend: Cooking 3.0 and Hot Looks 7.7.

APPLICATION: Obviously that conversation never took place. But I want you to notice something here: There was a problem... this wife was unhappy. The correspondence in the illustration had several suggested solutions to her problem.

- 1.) Nagging 5.3
- 2.) Tears 6.2
- 3.) Guilt 3.0
- 4.) Hot looks 7.7

You know what that sounds like to me? (pause) Manipulation 5.0.

As humorous as that supposed conversation was supposed to be, it points to a very real difficulty in human relationships. Too many people (not just in marriage, but in all kinds of relationships) believe that they need to control those relationships. If necessary they'll manipulate others. They'll do everything they can to convince others to do something THEY want done and they'll do so by nagging, guilt, tricking, tempting or browbeating them into it.

Let's look at what God expects of a Godly woman.

BODY:

I. Godly Women.

ILLUSTRATION:

I recently read the confessions of a divorced woman. She said that after 19 years of marriage, her Christian family was torn apart by divorce... partly by her husband's faults... but also partly by her own faults.

And then she listed some of HER OWN failures:

- I yelled... A lot!
- I looked out for "number one" and tried to protect her (me).
- I was cruel and self-serving and critical with my words. Probably daily.
- I didn't serve my then-husband enough.
- I didn't build him up enough.
- I didn't respect him.
- I used to argue that once I felt he deserved respect, I'd begin to respect him.

(Elisabeth K. Corcoran)

Now her husband (if he'd been honest) probably could have listed a lot of similar faults on his part. But the point is this... there are too many marriages where each partner tries to manipulate the other. Whether it's the wife or the husband - one or both of them can get into the habit of trying to "control the relationship."

And Peter says: **DON'T DO THAT!** Do not do that.

Don't try to control your partner.

You are a servant of the most High God.

You are a servant of Jesus Christ.

So learn to deal with people like Jesus did. Particularly people who make your life uncomfortable.

I am not referring to your spouse just now... but is there someone in your life that you're not comfortable being around, who makes you upset or frustrated? (Ask for a show of hands).

1 Peter 2:21-24 (NASB)

²¹ For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, ²² WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; ²³ and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Just two verses later I Peter 3:1 says this:

1 Peter 3:1 (NASB)

3 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of *them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

In the same way?

"**In the same way**" as what?

Wives, treat your husbands in the same way Jesus treated those who crucified Him.

How did Jesus do that?

- He committed no sin
- He did not retaliate
- He made no threats
- And He trusted Himself to His Father who judges justly.

So, wives - in your relationship with your husbands, you need to KNOW that this is what God **expects** of you.

- Don't sin.
- Don't retaliate.
- Don't make threats.
- And fully trust your Father to work things out for you.

Peter tells us that wives are to imitate Jesus in their relationship with their husbands.

And HOW does he say wives are to imitate Jesus?

Wives are to imitate Jesus by being **submissive** to their husbands.

Submissive? What in the world does that mean?

June tells me that she is willing to be completely submissive to me as long as she agrees with me! ...And I guess that is OK as long as SHE agrees with ME!

Of course, I say this in jest. But I am afraid this is the attitude that many couples have in their marriage.

ILLUSTRATION:

Actress Candace Cameron Bure was a star on the TV sitcom "Full House", and this is HER understanding of submission:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbobNUh2-WU>

Now she said it better than I could ever hope to.

And being a woman her testimony on this has more weight than mine would have.

But notice where Candace Bure is sharing this...

on "Huff Post Live".

It's a liberal blog.

The folks at the Huff Post are NOT comfortable with Christians and they are seriously upset about this "**submission**" idea. To worldly folks like them, **submission** is **out**. **Control and manipulation** is **in**. They believe that if you can't control and manipulate your partner - you just move on and find one you can.

You can almost hear the disbelief in the interviewer's voice:

Candace says: "I allow my husband to make the final decision".

And the interviewer is shocked: "Even to the detriment of your family?" (Even if it hurts your family?)

Now, why would the interviewer ask that question?

Why would she imply that submission would "harm" the family?

Because husband AREN'T always right. They do mess up... sometimes a lot. And when it looks like the man is going to blow it you've got to protect yourself. If you don't protect yourself nobody else will.

That is the view of worldly of relationships... that's why non-Christians do what they do.

But there are **TWO** reasons why we as Christians submit.

1. **1st** EVERY Christian is commanded to submit to others – that's our law!

Turn with me to...

Matthew 20:25-28 (NASB)

²⁵ But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and *their* great men exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Jesus said submission is **who we are** and **what we DO**.

In fact Jesus said - if we learn to be servants of others then we will become great.

Now, that doesn't make any sense!!!

How could we possibly end up in 1st place if we insist in serving in last place?

How could we possibly end up being great if we insist on being slaves?

IT MAKES NO SENSE!!!

And that's absolutely true... except for the 2nd thing the Bible teaches us.

Why did Jesus treat those who crucified Him the way He did?

2. "...he kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; I Peter 2:23

And how can wives submit so confidently to their husbands?

1 Peter 3:1-7 (NASB)

⁵ For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;

A submissive spirit makes a wife beautiful to her husband.

But the only way to be properly submissive is to put your hope in God so that God can have control in your family.

As Peter says in later on:

1 Peter 5:6 (NASB)

⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

Jesus repeatedly taught us that if we were willing to humble ourselves and be servants of others, God would lift us up.

Luke 14:10-11 (NASB)

¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. ¹¹ For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Every Christian must learn submission and humbleness so that God will lift us up in due time.

Now feminists smirk at submission for wives in the marriage because they think men are getting off lightly. But let's look at what God tells the MEN..

II. Godly Men.

1 Peter 3:7 (NASB)

⁷ You husbands **in the same way**, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Notice the phrase that Peter uses in this verse: "in the same way".

Where have we seen that phrase before?

That's right in verse 1.

In the same way as what?

In the same way as Jesus.

You are to respond to your wife in the same way Jesus responded to those who crucified Him.

- Not sinning against her.
- Not retaliating when she irritates you.
- Making no threats against her.
- And trusting to your Father who judges justly.

That's another way to say YOU should submit to your wife.

Wait a minute, I thought it was the women who were to be submissive! After all the scriptures say they are the "**weaker vessel**".

Yeah, physically, they are generally weaker, BUT THEY ARE NOT LESS INTELLIGENT OR LESS IMPORTANT!

Most men are bigger and more powerful than their wives (although there are few women who could put the fear in most of us). And men are genetically wired to be decision makers.

ILLUSTRATION:

Just as an illustration of that, consider the major argument of most women: "He doesn't 'listen' to me."

What's she saying? She's saying she wants to share her thoughts with the man, but the man isn't cooperating. When the woman shares her problem with the man... what's the reaction of the man? HE WANTS TO FIX IT! He doesn't want the wife to share her troubles and leave it at that. He wants to **fix the problem** and then get on with life. Man is inherently a problem solver. That's how God created him.

But God – having designed the man with that ability – warns us men in this verse that we should:

"live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life,"

God is asking you to think of your wife as if she were fragile glass.

If men aren't gentle with their wives... God takes that personally.

We are to honor our wives and serve them respectfully just as Christ did for all of us. When we do, we will earn the respect of our wives and the word "submission" will not be a problem.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, husbands and wives should have one main objective for their spouses. Notice what verse 1 says:

1 Peter 3:1 (NASB)

3 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

Whether you are the husband or the wife in a marriage you have ONE objective.

And that objective is not to have a home where things go YOUR way. It's to have a home where your spouse ends up going to heaven.

- We don't nag them.
- We don't place guilt on them
- We don't argue with them.
- We love them into heaven.

That is the objective of every Christian husband or wife.

You don't want to leave your spouse behind.

You want them to join you in heaven.

But **you** can't get into heaven until you follow the commands of Jesus.

John 10:27-28 (NASB)

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

If you have not accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, do it today. Don't wait until you have cleaned up your life. **You don't clean yourself up to come to the Christ; you surrender yourself to Christ, to let Him clean you up!**

God be with You.