

## Main Passage: 1 Peter 3:1-7

### Theological Theme

Peter instructed wives to submit to the authority of their husbands, and husbands to honor and live with their wives in an understanding way. In displaying this mutual respect, both parties honor God and point to Jesus with their actions.

### Introduction

- ?(?) What can we understand about submission in marriage from Peter's previous teaching in this letter? What are some ways this has been wrongly taught or misunderstood?
  
- ?(?) How might husbands be "won over without a word" (v. 1)? How are all Christians called to live in this way among nonbelievers?

### 1. Pure and Reverent Lives (1 Peter 3:1-2)

Note that this portion of Peter's letter begins with "in the same way" (v. 1), so we should read this as part of the whole of Peter's teaching on Christian submission. He had previously written about how Christians should conduct themselves (submitting yourself to authority, even when it is unfair). Remember, Peter's original audience were believers living as foreigners (at that time in the Roman empire) and enduring persecution from nonbelievers, so he was specifically speaking into their circumstances and cultural moment.

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- ?(?) How might husbands be "won over without a word" (v. 1)? How are all Christians called to live in this way among nonbelievers?
  
- ?(?) Peter spoke to wives directly in these verses, but there is application for all Christians.  
How can our lives give opportunity to share the gospel with others?

## 2. A Gentle Spirit (1 Peter 3:3-6)

Last week, we talked about the concept of living differently to stand firm in our faith and glorify God, pointing others toward the gospel. This concept applies here, too. The manner by which wives submitted to their husbands (as instructed in v. 1) may have been countercultural at the time, and Peter's instruction regarding appearance was an extension of this.

- ?(?) Given the context of the first part of chapter 3, why do you think Peter told wives to dress a certain way? What might this achieve and how?
- ?(?) What connection did Peter make to Sarah and Abraham? Why would this be significant for his original audience?
- ?(?) How does living with a gentle and quiet spirit give us opportunity to point others to Christ? Where does this show we place our trust?

## 3. Sacrificial Leadership (1 Peter 3:7)

Both Peter (and Paul, who also has similar instruction in his New Testament writings) advocate for mutuality in the marriage relationship. God's design isn't for one partner to be respectful and loving, while the other partner is taken advantage of or steamrolled. Godly marriage is a two-way street of mutual respect.

- ?(?) What instruction did Peter give husbands in this verse?
- ?(?) How might contrary behavior hinder one's prayers?
- ?(?) How should a husband's posture toward his wife make the wife's call to submission light and not a burden? How does Christ do this for us?

## Conclusion

- ?(?) How can we apply Peter's advice to operate within marriage in a way that offers gospel witness to those who see it? How does this apply to those not married?
- ?(?) What are some potential modern-day roadblocks to sharing the gospel. Why should we give this consideration, even if these are not "wrong" things?
- ?(?) What would it look like for us to cultivate a gentle heart posture toward others for the sake of sharing Christ?