

1 Peter 3:1-7

In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over by observing your pure and reverent lives. Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God. This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They put their trust in God and accepted the authority of their husbands. For instance, Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, and called him her master. You are her daughters when you do what is right without fear of what your husbands might do. In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered. (1 Peter 3:1-7 NLT)

Verse 1

In the same way

This references verse 21: For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you.

Even when it means that we will suffer, we should still follow through

You wives must accept the authority of your husbands

Submission and tender care are required without qualification. The wife should submit to the husband's authority regardless of his spiritual state and without fear.

Submission is not an obligation, it's a choice for the wife to make.

Greek: apeitheo; focuses on disobedience rather than disbelief

Only after they accept the authority of their husbands can their lives speak to their husbands.

Helps your husband understand His position in God and supports Him in living the life into which God has called Him. This is true even if some refuse to obey the Good News

Your godly lives will speak to them without any words

Just as slaves are to submit to bankrupt masters, so wives are to submit to husbands who are not following the word of God.

Verse 2

By observing your pure and reverent lives.

Reverent – the Greek word for "in fear" is used here.

This form is only used in 1Peter in reference to God.

Wives should not live in reverence of their husbands. The point Peter is making is that the good conduct of wives should stem from their relationship with God.

Verse 3

Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes

These things represent superficial vanity.

1 Samuel 16:7

This does not mean that Peter is prohibiting outward adornment or that women should not seek to make themselves beautiful. For their beauty is given by God and is a picture of the holiness of His people.

Ezekiel 16:7-14, Jeremiah 2:32

Verse 4

You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within

The gospel works from the inside out, resulting in humility and modesty precisely because of a heart captured by Christ.

The Greek translation literally means "the hidden person of the heart."

Wives should not focus on hairstyle, jewelry, and clothing, but on who they are in relationship to God.

This is the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.

1 Samuel 16:7

Verse 5

This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful

Women of old: Sarah, Rachael, Leah

These women were called holy because they lived in a way that was pleasing to God; they were set apart for His purposes.

They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands.

These women did not submit to their husbands because they believed their husbands were superior to them intellectually or spiritually. They submitted to their husbands because they were confident that God would reward those who put their trust in Him.

Verse 6

For instance, Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, and called him master.

These show that submission requires nothing less than obedience. Submission does not merely involve being considerate or adapting to one's husband.

Submission should also include a right attitude and spirit, as stated in verse 4.

Genesis 18:12

Sarah was making a snarky comment to herself about how old Abraham was, and wondering if he would be able to get her pregnant. Even then, she still referred to him with respect and dignity instead of merely calling him an old man. Even in casual situations, Sarah respected Abraham.

You are her daughter when you do what is right without fear of what your husband might do.

Fear God, not humans. Even in times of persecution.

We need to trust God's protection and provision for us instead of being afraid if what man might do.

The context of the women these verses were addressing was that they were worthless and they viewed themselves as worthless

This relates to us now because we are trying to get away from this view and so we build up images for ourselves.

These verses speak of the effects of true beauty; the beauty that God made us with when he put His image on us in a uniquely feminine way

When a woman is controlling and striving, this undermines her husband, says he doesn't have what it takes.

Beauty that invites to life flows from a heart that is at rest in who she is in Christ and understands that God finds her captivating. Because of Christ, we can live in redeemed beauty, not fallen beauty! But until we find our significance in Christ alone, we will live from a striving hearts and it will affect our relationships, our ministry, and our walk with God.

Verse 7

In the same way

Christ Himself, the eternal Lord of the universe, is "gentle and loving at heart" (Matt 11:29). Christian husbands are called to the same heart.

Even when it means that we will suffer, we should still follow through.

You husbands must give honor to your wives.

Honor: This is from the same Greek root as the word used to describe the "honor" emperor should be afforded. Submit!

Treat your wives with understanding as you live together.

Understanding: Husbands should live together with wives informed by the knowledge (understanding) of God's will, of what He demands them to do.

She may be weaker than you are,

Weaker is not worse.

In Greek, this is counter-cultural!!!

Other than physical state, Peter could have meant that wives have the "weaker" role of submission to their husband's authority in marriage and that husbands need to be understanding and considerate of their wives in their role.

Referencing the "weaker nature" also refers to what the men of that time knew about woman, and calls for a respect of what makes them feminine.

But she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life.

This levels the playing field.

Your wife will share equally in the inheritance of eternal life. The husband and the wife are co-heirs!

Galatians 3:28-29

Treat at her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

Love your neighbor as yourself!!!

When you don't honor her, you do not love her as your neighbor. You're taking what God has deemed worthy and saying no, she isn't worthy.

Guys: Understand that you are worthy before God! When you understand your worth in Christ, you won't feel the need to exert your authority over her, but you will feel secure enough that you will be able to serve and honor her selflessly.

Women: don't settle for a man who is less than this but FIRST, become a woman worth this man.

Men: don't settle for a woman who is less than this but FIRST, become a man who is worth this woman.

Until we each find our worth in Christ, we will not be able to minister effectively, especially to our future husbands and wives!