

# 1 Peter

## Part 9 – Wives, Husbands, and Submission to Christ

### 1 Peter 3:1-7

Chapter 2 in 1 Peter gives context for the “likewise” at the beginning of this section.

As Peter gets into the practical implications of different relationships (people to the government, slaves to masters, and wives to husbands) all of this is rooted in what he has built upon in this letter – that those who believe in Jesus Christ are called out of their former lives and into a new identity in Christ

which impacts every area of life. Those in Christ are under a new authority, the authority of Jesus himself. He is both the example and the power behind believers’ ability to live and persevere under other authorities which at times might lead to suffering.



**Main Idea:** The way husbands and wives live out their roles within the marriage context is a picture of their true submission to Christ and their acknowledgment of his authority in their lives.

### 1. We are subject to Christ and his authority over us (2:21-25).

- He is our example (2:21-23). In everything that he suffered...
  - He did not sin.
  - He was not deceitful.
  - He did not return insults when he was insulted.
  - He did not threaten anyone.
  - He entrusted himself to God the father who judges justly – leaving justice and vindication to his Father.
- He has empowered us to live righteously. (2:24-25)
  - He paid for our sins.
  - So that we would die to sin and live to righteousness.
  - Because of his wounds, we have been healed.
  - And we, as stray sheep, have been gathered and returned to our true shepherd, Jesus Christ.

### 2. Wives should be subject to their own husbands as a sign of submission to Christ (3:1-6).

- Their conduct was a witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. (3:1-2)
  - Peter instructs wives to live in such a way that their behavior, and the way they treat their husbands, would be a witness to the power of the gospel in their lives.
  - When he says, “they may be won without a word” does not mean that the wives never share the gospel with their husbands.
- Their true beauty was a witness to their identity in Christ. (3:3-4)
  - God is more concerned about our hearts than our outward appearance.
  - “Hidden person of the heart”

- The true self - full of beauty, value, and dignity because you're created in the image of God.
  - "Imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit"
    - Gentle – "a person who does not attack back, for he/she waits on God to judge in the end; knowing God is just, the person can suffer evil without bitterness and vengeance." - Peter Davids
    - Quiet – calm and peaceful as opposed to restless and insubordinate
    - These reflect the fruit of the Spirit in the believer.
- Their submission was a witness to the care of Christ (3:5-6)
  - Submission is the willful act of entrusting leadership to another.
    - True submission is an active attitude of restraint and an attitude of respect toward another person while still maintaining one's personhood.
  - As the wife entrusts herself to the leadership of her husband, ultimately she is trusting Christ.
  - The example of Sarah
    - For believers, Abraham is a figurative father of our faith.
    - Sarah is the figurative mother of these women who believe in Jesus.
    - Abraham was not a perfect husband. Sarah's submission was an example of a wife submitting to a husband who was not, in those moments, obeying the word.
    - In showing this respectful submission, wives are entrusting themselves to the care of Christ, looking to him to protect them and care for them even in the midst of frightening situations.

### **3. Husbands demonstrate honor and care for their wives as a sign of their submission to Christ (3:7).**

- The way husbands treat their wives is a living illustration of their practical theology.
- Live with your wives in an understanding way
  - Literally "according to knowledge"
    - This means plainly – know your wife and her needs. Seek to understand her. Do the work to know what she likes and dislikes. This is an all-encompassing knowledge including intimacy.
- Showing honor to them as the weaker vessel
  - Honor – the showing of dignity and value
  - Weaker vessel – The command to the men is to not use their power and strength as a way to domineer and control their wives.
  - Co-heirs of grace – they are of equal value. They have the same inheritance in Christ that the men do.
- So that your prayers are not hindered
  - This is a direct link to the authority the husband is under.
  - If he mistreats his wife, it will hinder his prayers to the one he is supposed to be submitting to and representing to his wife.
  - If a husband desires to have a close, intimate, prayer life with his savior, he must pursue that close, intimate life with his wife. They are directly linked.

### **4. Final Thoughts**

We are under the authority of Christ because he purchased us from sin and death and has freed us to live righteously. Let the character and example of Jesus lead us to faithfulness in every situation, every institution, and every relationship.