

# SOJOURNERS AND EXILES

## A JOURNEY THROUGH FIRST PETER



### IMPERISHABLE BEAUTY

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#### 1 Peter 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup> 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, <sup>2</sup> when they see your respectful and pure conduct. <sup>3</sup> Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, <sup>6</sup> as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

#### SUMMARY

The biblical concept of a wife's submission to her husband is often misunderstood and misapplied. What God intended to be a blessing for both spouses is labeled as a curse by many people in the world, as well as in the Church. This week, we will dive into the tumultuous waters of biblical submission in marriage and see the power and blessing of God's calling when godly wives submit to their husbands, even those who do not follow Christ.

#### PASSAGE OUTLINE

1. God's Fruitful Command - 3:1-2
2. God's Standard of Beauty - 3:3-4
3. Godly Examples to Follow - 3:5-6

## SUBMISSION MEANS A VOLUNTARY, RESPECTFUL RESPONSE TO SOMEONE WITH GOD-GIVEN AUTHORITY

### **1 Peter 2:24**

Obey/obedience has a primary meaning in 1 Peter (1:2, 14, 22; 2:8; 3:1, 20; 4:17). It is a response by faith to the gospel message that “[Christ] himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.” (1 Peter 2:24)

## A GODLY WIFE HONORS HER HUSBAND THROUGH HUMBLE RESPECT AND HOLY DEVOTION

## A GODLY WIFE GUARDS HER MIND THROUGH SELF-CONTROL AND STEADFAST CALM.

### **Swindoll, Living Insights: James, 1 & 2 Peter, p. 205**

“From Sarah’s perspective, Abraham may have appeared unpredictable, devious, foolish, rash, and irresponsible. In some cases her estimation of the man would have been accurate!...Not because of her secure and perfect marriage, but because of her insecure and imperfect marriage, Sarah becomes [the epitome] of submission for all believers.”

## A GODLY WIFE DRAWS STRENGTH FROM GODLY EXAMPLES.

### **Francis & Lisa Chan, You and Me Forever, pp. 88-89**

1. When we submit, we are respectfully submitting to a God-given position and not perfection. In other words, our husbands are going to make mistakes. They will not always ‘deserve’ to be the leader in our eyes, but God will always deserve our obedience to Him in this way. And since the command to submit comes from God, our submission is ultimately to Him.
2. Only our submission to God should be absolute. We are not meant to submit to our husbands if they ask us to sin (get drunk, lie, cheat on taxes, watch pornography, etc.). ‘We must obey God rather than human beings!’ (Acts 5:29).
3. We are designed to help our husbands and to accomplish so much more together! God decided that it was ‘not good’ for the man to be alone, so He created a helper fit for Adam (Gen. 2:18). Embrace your God-given role. Give your husband the benefit of your insight, wisdom, and perspective. But also give him the freedom to move and lead in the direction he feels God is leading.
4. There is no safer place to be than in the will of God. If we know God has asked us to submit to our husbands, we follow God in that, even though we may be fearful. Ultimately, more women find themselves fighting against God rather than their husbands. And that’s a big reason why so many women are completely miserable. God has carefully crafted every aspect of marriage, and we need to learn to trust Him.
5. The biblical concept of submission does not put your husband in the place of God. If a woman finds herself being subjected to abuse, she shouldn’t hesitate to involve the authorities who can hold her husband accountable. But I also want to encourage every wife to believe that God can bring restoration and healing in even the most hopeless of situations.”

## TELL YOUR HUSBAND THE GOOD YOU SEE IN HIM.

1. When he leads (even imperfectly)
2. When he works hard
3. When he’s discouraged

Note: Be really specific about how you see this in him.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What tops the list for you as your most memorable restaurant experience (good or bad)?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:1-6. What is biblical submission? What isn't?
3. Why is biblical submission emphasized in chapters 2 and 3?
4. What are the common elements between submission in the world, the workplace, and home?
5. How would you counsel a woman who is married to a husband who mocks her faith?
6. Why is Sarah the example Peter points wives to as a model of biblical submission?
7. How is honor and respect communicated in your home and/or marriage?
8. How should Jesus' sacrificial example (1 Peter 2:21-25) affect the ways you relate to others, especially in your home?
9. What grabbed your attention the most from the passage and/or the sermon?

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