



# Gender Roles and Identity

## What the Bible Says About Men and Women – and Why It Matters

Lesson 6 – Gender Reflects the Image of  
God in Marriage –

# Three Basic Principles to Interpret Scripture

1. Figure out what Scripture meant to the original readers.

- Historical and literary context

2. Let the Bible explain itself.

- Inspiration, Inerrancy, Authorial Intent
- Exegesis: Genre, Word Meaning, Grammar, Syntax
- Biblical Context: Immediate paragraph > chapter > book > whole Bible. (Interpreting a verse in light of the whole canon of scripture)

3. Figure out how I can obey it.

- Any time I ask, "Did God really say..." (Gen. 3:1) to wriggle out of obedience, I actively participate in Satan's tactics and in Adam and Eve's sin, elevating my own will over God's.



# How Men and Women Reflect the Image of God in Marriage

- ✓ Marriage means yielding to one another – 1 Cor. 7
- ✓ Wives are masters of their home – 1 Tim. 5
- ✓ Husbands are the heads of their wives – Eph. 4-6
- Marriage requires Christ-like submission and understanding – 1 Pet. 3

*Headship,  
Submission  
and the Bible*  
Gender Roles in the Home



# Voluntary Submission and Godly Authority

- Eph. 5:21; 25-33 - 21 **submitting to one another** out of reverence for Christ.
- 22 Wives, (**submit**) to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 **For** the husband is the **head** of the wife even as Christ is the **head** of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.
  - Why is there an order of authority?
  - God brings order out of chaos.
- 33 However, let each one of you **love** his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she **respects** her husband.
  - Why does it say for the wife to respect her husband?



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- Eph. 5:21; 25-33 - 21 **submitting to one another** out of reverence for Christ.
- <sup>25</sup> Husbands, **love** your wives, as Christ loved the church and **gave himself up for her**,
  - Service and Provision
  - Deference
  - Care
  - Gentleness
  - Sacrifice
  - Selflessness
- <sup>33</sup> However, let each one of you **love** his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she **respects** her husband.



# Summary

- The image of God in husbands must look like Jesus as our head.
  - Submit (*hupotasso*), **love** (*agape*), be vulnerable (*paradidomi*), and **honor** (*timi*) their wives as co-heirs of Christ.
- The image of God in wives must look like Jesus.
  - Masters of their home (*oikodespotein*), **submit** (*hupotasso*) because of divine order called headship, and **respect** (*phobeo*) their husbands in response to his love, and beyond.
- Mutual honor and respect are coupled with mutual submission in **gender specific ways**.
- Is it Good News for husbands and wives?

SUBMIT TO ONE  
ANOTHER OUT OF  
REVERENCE FOR  
CHRIST.  
—EPHESIANS 5:21



# John and Ruth Rucker

- On Voluntary Submission



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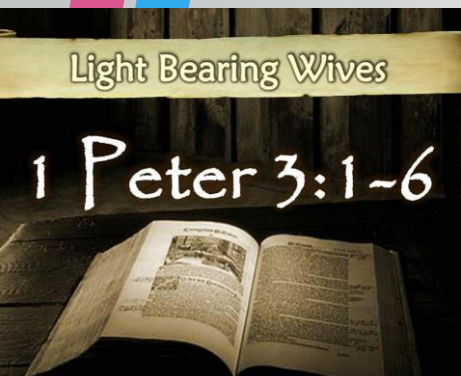
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# Genesis in Light of 1 Peter 3

- 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.

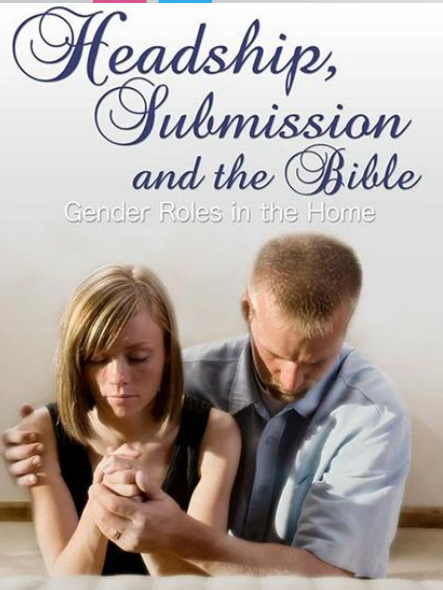


Light Bearing Wives

1 Peter 3:1-6

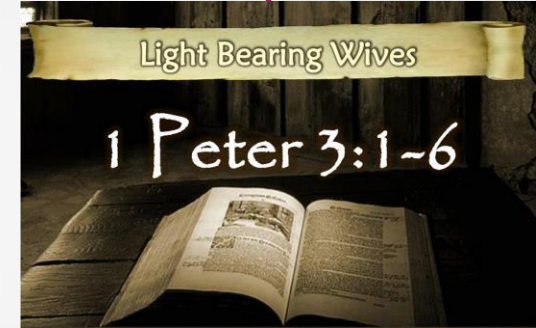
# Genesis in Light of 1 Peter 3

- Likewise:
  - 2:13 - Be **subject** for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme,
  - 2:18 - Servants, be **subject** to your masters with all **respect**, not only to the good and gentle but **also** to the unjust.
  - 3:1 - Likewise, wives, be **subject** to your own husbands,
  - 3:7 - Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing **honor** to the woman as the **weaker vessel**, since they are **heirs with you** of the grace of life,
  - 5:5 - Likewise, you who are younger, be **subject** to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with **humility toward one another**,



# Voluntary Submission and Godly Authority

- Wives and husbands are to respectful (showing honor) and pure (v. 2 for wives, v. 7 for husbands)
- Wives submit to husbands (v. 1). Why?
  - To win them to Christ
- Why does Peter use “obey” and “lord” relative to Sarah and Abraham?
  - *Hypakouo* – obey – acting under the **authority** of the one speaking
  - Matt. 8:27 – what the wind and the sea did
  - Mark 1:27 - what the spirits did
  - Acts 6:7 - What people do when they become **obedient** to the faith
  - Eph. 6:1 – What children do for their parents
  - 2 Thess. 3:14 – What we do with Paul’s instructions



# How is the Husband to Act as Head in Marriage?

- 1 Peter 3:7

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an **understanding** way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

- With understanding - *gnosis* – to know
  - Not only knowledge, but experience
  - Husbands are to know their wives
  - Husbands are to know how to live with their wives.
  - Knowing they are to be the Christ-like, submissive, self-sacrificing, entrusting, sanctifying head of his wife is one kind of knowing, being that kind of a husband is another kind.



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- Honoring as the weaker vessel - *gnosis* – to know
  - Is the wife a weaker vessel or a strong helper.
  - Simile – treat them like they were a weaker vessel
  - Wives who **submit** to and **respect** their husbands place themselves in a vulnerable position.
- Husbands need to **honor** (*timi* – value) their wives as co-heirs of Christ.



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- So that your prayers are not hindered
  - How will the husbands prayers be hindered?
  - 1 Peter 3:7 – sin disrupts our relationship to God
  - Matt. 18:19 – unity in prayers is disrupted



# Summary

- The image of God in husbands must look like Jesus as our head.
  - Submit (*hupotasso*), love (*agape*), be vulnerable (*paradidomi*), and honor (*time*) their wives as co-heirs of Christ.
- The image of God in wives must look like Jesus.
  - Masters of their home (*oikodespotein*), submit (*hupotasso*) because of divine order called headship (authority), and respect (*phobeo*) their husbands in response to his love, and beyond.
- Mutual honor and respect are coupled with mutual submission.
- It is Good News for husbands and wives!



# Some Shepherding Affirmations and Denials

- We affirm that just as there is an order of authority within the Godhead, God has placed an order of authority in marriage which places the husband in a position of authority over his wife (1 Cor. 11:3, Eph. 5:22-24). We deny that this makes men superior or women inferior. We affirm that this position of authority is a position of service rather than a position of dominance (Eph. 5:21; 25-28).

