

1 Peter

Week 5: Godly Relationships in the Home

Scripture

1 Peter 3:1-7

Review

Peter has identified three characteristics that were true of his readers (and us)...

- They/we are **chosen exiles** (living in a place that's not our home)
- They/we are **called to be holy** (set apart for God's purposes)
- They/we have **been made living stones, built on Christ the cornerstone** (a living faith that is evidenced in living out the presence of Christ in daily life)

Peter then says that their identity in Christ should lead them to a submissiveness to authority, ***following the example of Christ, our suffering servant.***

What areas does Peter call his readers to live in ***submissive obedience*** to authority?

- As ***citizens*** (2:13-17)
- As ***employees*** (2:18-20)
- As a ***spouse*** (3:1-7)

Motivation

We get into a sticky subject when we talk about submissiveness in the marital relationship, especially when we talk about the headship of the husband over his wife.

We shouldn't be surprised by this if we are students of the first human beings. Eve was told that there would be a struggle between her and her husband...

Genesis 3:16 (ESV) To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."

Before we jump into Peter's instructions concerning submissiveness in the marital relationship, we must examine God's original intention for marriage.

Before and After Sin Comparison

- ***BEFORE: Loving Headship*** - Adam led humbly under God's authority, caring for Eve's good (Gen 2:15-17)
- ***AFTER: Domineering Control*** - Adam's leadership became selfish or harsh — "*he will rule over you*" (Gen 3:16)

- **BEFORE: Willing Partnership** - Eve joyfully supported and complemented Adam as an equal partner and helper (Gen 2:18, 23)
AFTER: Desire for Control - Eve's "*desire will be for [her] husband*" — a drive to control or resist rather than cooperate (Gen 3:16)
- **BEFORE: Mutual Delight and Unity** - They were naked and unashamed, perfectly one in trust and love (Gen 2:25)
AFTER: Shame and Blame - They hid from God and turned against each other in fear and accusation (Gen 3:7-12)
- **BEFORE: Shared Mission** - Together they ruled over creation as stewards of God's world (Gen 1:28)
AFTER: Broken Mission - Work and relationships became filled with frustration, toil, and disorder (Gen 3:17-19).

Information

Based on these thoughts, let's examine Peter's teaching.

Submissiveness and Love in the Marital Relational...

- **Wives are subject to their husbands**
 - ✓ Be subject to the husband
 - 1 Peter 3:1 (ESV)** Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands...
 - **Decision Making** – A wife shares her opinions openly, prays with her husband, and works toward agreement. If they disagree after honest discussion and prayer, she supports his final decision — not because she's voiceless, but because she chooses unity over winning.
 - **Conflict and communication** - Instead of trying to control through anger, sarcasm, or withdrawal, a submissive spirit chooses to communicate truthfully but respectfully. She focuses on the issue, not on tearing down her husband.
 - **Support and encouragement** – A wife builds her husband up rather than competes with him. She believes in him, speaks well of him to others, and looks for ways to make his leadership a joy, not a burden (Hebrews 13:17).
 - **Spiritual Partnership** – She prays with/for her husband, invites his spiritual leadership, and creates an environment where God's Word/prayer are central.
 - **Everyday Cooperation** - Submission shows up in tone, attitude, and teamwork — in parenting decisions, budgeting, church involvement, and even small household choices. She seeks harmony, not control.

✓ Model respectful and pure conduct

1 Peter 3:1 (ESV) 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, **2** when they see your respectful and pure conduct. **3** Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— **4** 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. **5** For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands...

- Respect - Show honor and reverence through attitude and behavior
- Purity - Live with moral integrity and sincerity before God
- Inner Beauty - Value a gentle, quiet spirit over outward appearance
- Faithful Example - Follow the pattern of godly women who trusted God and lived in faith (such as Sarah)

■ **Husbands are to love their wives**

✓ Seek to understand your wife

1 Peter 3:7 (ESV) Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way...

- Listen, don’t just try to fix a problem
 - Understanding begins with listening (don’t rush to solve the problem)
 - Ask thoughtful questions and give her space to share
 - Respond with empathy (“*I can see why that hurt you*” rather than “*You shouldn’t feel that way.*”)
- Study her

Every wife is different. An understanding husband pays attention to what makes his wife feel loved, secure, and valued.

 - Learn her personality, love language, stress points, and rhythms
 - Notice what encourages her and what drains her
 - It’s a lifelong study — not guessing, but observing and adjusting

✓ Show your wife honor

1 Peter 3:7 (ESV) ...showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life...

Peter calls the wife “*the weaker vessel*” which doesn’t mean lesser — it means to handle her with care.

- Be gentle with her emotions
- Speak kindly, even in disagreement
- Avoid harsh words, sarcasm, or dismissive tones

- ✓ See the benefits of answered prayer

1 Peter 3:7 (ESV) ...so that your prayers may not be hindered.

“A failure to keep this relationship loving would injure one’s relationship with God, hindering his prayers. As the closest human relationship, the relationship to one’s spouse must be most carefully cherished if one wishes a close relationship with God.” – New International Commentary (NT)