

## 1Peter 3:1-7

A word of warning to start here. Read the passage. Don't read into this passage something to use in an argument or to tell someone else what to do.

### A couple of things:

1. It is addressed to married couples. You have no right to interpret it for someone else.
2. It has to be read in context with the previous chapter.
3. Consider the cultural background. Wives were treated as possessions. That is not our culture, so interpret it for your self in your culture and time to define how this impacts your family.

Let's go.

1. Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives,

What's it about? Primarily a Christian wife being a witness to her not christian husband. Note a couple of things: I. Submit = choose to be compliant. (Not argumentative) is. II notice it says "in the same way" it is referring to the previous passage.

Chapt 2:25 For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

It is likening our relationship to the spouse to the relationship with Jesus. Mmmm. Where does that take us?

Notice the wording - shepherd and overseer. Both words used for those who care for the church, both have lists of characteristics that they need to possess to be in that role. This is about respect, not necessarily about authority.

In fact some modern translation have translated it as "Wives in the same way respect your own husbands".

( An interesting aside by a female theologian is that you don't necessarily have to respect other women's husbands!!! Interesting)

iii. It is about dealing with a non believing husband first and foremost at this point)

But hang on, Hang on. It's a bit missional too!!! The way a wife is to live is to be the missionary at home!

Andrew Palmer said the Harvest is white for Harvest.

Guess what, sometimes the harvest is at home – literally.

Maybe this passage is about living a missional life and lifestyle. Maybe we need to take our mission home as well as to the ends of the earth.

Phil Marshall, who used to be the missiologist at Morling College said to me once that: "A church that isn't doing mission at home isn't doing mission globally" He went on to say "A person not sharing Jesus can not understand mission."

Here Peter is giving Wives a way to mission. And a template to do it!

Moving on

when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

Here is a character explanation. Be pure and be reverent. That's to be your lifestyle. How does that play out today. Purity is generally about keeping oneself for the marriage partner but not just sexually, in all of life. Reverence is that respect aspect again.

Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes.

This isn't saying don't look good but backing up the previous verse. It's about character being vitally important. Culturally back then a woman dressed as culture demanded, same today but don't make that the focus, name your character the focus . As the next verse says.

Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

Get the picture, notice the inner side is characterised by the out expression "gentle and quiet spirit.

5. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, 6. like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

This is expounding the last bit. Kind of like saying "this works girls". Sarah is a bit of a big wig in the bible history for ladies so she is the example.

Now us blokes:

7. Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives,

Hang on, what is this "In the same way"

Do blokes have to treat their wives the same do we have to be submissive, do we have to Yep go back to the previous chapter:

Chapt 2:25 For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

It's about following Jesus. Jesus is the model for blokes and girls, husbands and wives. SO what does it say here?

Be considerate. What's that about? Remember back then the culture was for the wife to be treated like a possession. This word considerate throws that out. Consider them. Consider their needs. Consider their life, their wants and desires. Don't treat them like objects or possessions- consider them. This was culture shattering – treating women like people – never heard of before.

Listen to this next bit.

and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life,

Treat them like a woman. Arr chivalry returns. Sure the world is saying treat women as equals, but here I think we get the idea to do better than that treat them special, treat them better than equals, treat them special.

But look at the last bit there "heirs with you." That places it in context. The heir was usually the oldest male and got basically everything. Best treatment, best respect wow, this is revolutionary. Treat a woman like an heir. Never heard of before. Treating a woman. Like that wo. Yep. Absolute respect, absolute honour.

Actually guys, your job is a darned sight harder.

If this isn't the way you treat your lady, get with the program, the biblical program. If you don't there are consequences. What?

Look at this

so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

So if you treat you wife wrong God won't listen to your prayers? Well, if you don't listen to God's word, you aren't in a right relationship with God. That creates a block between you and God. Your fault not his. Want your prayers to work? Treat people the way God says to.

But the passage does kinda say that if you don't treat your lady right there is a hindrance to your prayers. How, I don't know – that's for God to sought out.

Remember this us part if the teaching in this book, don't isolate it, don't proof text and say only part of it. Take in the whole passage.