

1 Peter 3:1-7 – Wives and Husbands

A. Introduction

- **Genesis 2:21-25** - God instituted marriage - it was his idea.
- **Genesis 3** - Sin has complicated marriage – it is the union of two sinners with nowhere to hide. We need God's help.
- **Ephesians 5:18-31** - Grace transforms marriage

B. 3:1-6 - Wives

- **2:21-25** – The context is Christ's submission to the Father
- Jesus is inspiration both to the wife and husband (Ephesians 5:25-28)

❖ 3:1-2 – Her behaviour – be submissive

- Command is found elsewhere – Ephesians 5:21-22; Colossians 3:18.
- It does not mean
 - ⇒ Put up with abuse – physical, psychological or spiritual.
 - ⇒ Agree with all that he says or do all that he demands.
 - ⇒ She must not try to change her husband.
 - ⇒ Put her husband in the place of Christ.
- It means to affirm, receive and nurture her husband's loving leadership.
- It involves purity of life – her husband can trust her completely.
- Reverence or the fear of the Lord drives it (2:17; 3:2 - the same word).
- Her aim is to win her husband through her life not her words.

❖ 3:3-4 – Her beauty – be stunning

- The world has always been obsessed with appearances.
- He does not dismiss external appearance – we must not lapse into legalism. The Song of Solomon affirms physical attraction.
- However, the real beauty that God affirms is that of character – such beauty is internal and unfading. Godliness trumps glamour.
- It is marked by a gentle and quiet spirit – which is seen supremely in the person of Christ (Matthew 11:29; 21:5). It is the beauty of Jesus.

❖ 3:5-6 – Her Boldness – be secure

- She is to hope in God and not to fear. This is because her identity and security is not in her husband or her looks or her family but in the Lord.
- In this she follows in the heritage of Sarah – who followed her husband in spite of the fact that he was an imperfect man (Genesis 12:1-20).
- She is an example of faith (Hebrews 11:11).

C. 3:7 - Husbands

❖ Consider her

- Live with her “*according to knowledge*” – engage in life-long learning.
- He must know his wife – her gifts, moods, fears and frustrations.
- He must know the Word - loving her as Christ loved the church – unconditionally, patiently, sacrificially and intentionally.

❖ Honour her

- She is a wonderful gift from God (Proverbs 12:4; 18:22; 19:4).
- She is the most precious thing in his life next to Jesus and he wants to see her develop to her fullest potential (Proverbs 31:10-31).

❖ Why should he treat her in this way?

- **She is the weaker vessel** – Not intellectually, spiritually or in gifting. She is physically weaker and vulnerable if she is submissive.
- **We are joint heirs** – we have the same Saviour and the same hope.
- **His prayers will be disrupted** – the vertical relationship depends on the horizontal.