

# 1 Peter 3:1-7

## Divine Viewpoint For Christians Who Are Wives/Husbands

### **Christian Wives (Like Christ Himself) are to Submit to Their Husband's Role as the Human Leader of Their Family as an Expression of Their Personal Submission to God v1-2**

#### **The Key Principle/Analogy (1 Corinthians 11:3)**

God the Father and God the Son are Co-Equal in Their Attributes/Worth  
Yet They Have Different Roles in the Divine Program for Salvation  
Jesus Embraced a Subordinate Role (He was the Sendee, the Father was the Sender)

Husbands and Wives are Co-Equal in Their Attributes/Worth  
Yet They Have Different Roles in the Divine Program for Marriage  
Christian Wives are to Embrace a Subordinate Role (She is the XO, He is the CO)...  
...God is the Commander-in-Chief and the Kids are the Buck Privates!

#### **Four Things Everybody Needs to Know about Biblical Submission**

- 1: It is not an abject groveling/blind compliance that shortchanges our self-worth or our self-respect-it in no way implies inferiority in the one who submits. (1 Cor 11:3)
- 2: It is a positive/proactive servant attitude/action response following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ toward His earthly parents and His Heavenly Father.
- 3: It is a freely given respect to those who are in superior positions over us in our society (1 Peter 2:13-17 and 2:18-25), our family (3:1-7) and our church (5:1-5).
- 4: It is always limited by a believer's ultimate loyalty to God, who outranks all human authority in our society, our families and our churches.

#### **ONE Good Reason for Christian Wives to Obey the Command of 1 Peter 3:1**

Especially If Their Husbands are Not Believers...“they may be won [to faith in Christ] with a word by the [Christ-like] behavior of their wives...”

## **Christian Wives are to See Character > Cosmetics and Prioritize a Demonstration of Sweetness of Spirit > an Obsession with Physical Appearance v3-6**

As you read these verses remember McCoy's Axiom of Christian Living: "All things in moderation...including moderation!" Peter is teaching Christian women to prioritize inner/spiritual beauty over outer/physical beauty. He is not teaching Christian women they should never think about their physical appearance. He is teaching they should always think about it under the umbrella/in the context of the much more important dynamic of inner spiritual beauty: "the inner person of the heart (the mind/will) with the quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God."

Peter uses Sarah as a good example of this principle. Since we just looked at it on Mothers Day, TBFers might think of the woman described in Proverbs 31:10-31.

## **Christian Husbands (Like Christ Himself) Are to Function as Servant-Leaders of Their Families Keying on Living with Their Wives in a Considerate and Respectful Way v7a**

### **The Key Principle/Analogy (Matthew 20:28)**

Jesus said: the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve... Our Savior and Lord is to have first place in the C/church (Colossians 1:15-18) and yet He exercises that role as the Ultimate Servant-Leader. (Important: see also John 13:3-17)

### **Command:**

Christian husbands are to live with their wives "in an understanding way." The original Greek literally says "according to knowledge." I would paraphrase it "Hey big boy, don't make the same mistakes in dealing with your wife over and over...one's wife is way too important for any man to take for granted/to treat insensitively.

### **One Reason for the Command:**

Wives/women are different (AIMHO in most ways better) than their husbands/men. The description of wives as "weaker" here is NOT an insult but a compliment....how does that work, you ask? It is like comparing a magnificent priceless ancient Asian vase (the woman/wife) to an empty Campbell's soap can (the man/husband)....which of these two is "weaker?" Which of these two is more exquisite/precious?

## **Christian Husbands Are to See Their Wives as Their Spiritual Equals and Realize That The Way They Relate to Their Wives is a Key Expression of Their Personal Submission to God v7b**

### **Command:**

Christian husbands are to honor their wives as “fellow heirs of the grace of life”

The word translated “honor” in our English Bibles goes back to a word in the original language that meant “to be heavy” ...in the sense of being substantial or important. Christian husbands must understand that their CO role on the marriage/family team does not mean their wives are less important or spiritually inferior to them...women are in fact the spiritual equals of their husbands (Galatians 3:28).

### **One Reason for the Command:**

If husbands see/treat their wives as less important/inferior...they not only wrong them, they sin against God. Sin in the Christian life undermines the quality of our fellowship with God, which in turn undermines the effectiveness of our prayer life.

### **Take This To Heart**

There is an “elephant in the room” as one reads 1 Peter 3:1-7 that some people don’t think about. That factor is summed in Frank Sinatra’s song “Love and Marriage.” In other words as “as everybody knows” love is the key to marriage (if you don’t believe Old Blue Eyes...listen to the Beatles’ classic anthem “All You Need is Love”) TEITR is: why in the world is the L-Word not mentioned in this key biblical passage on marriage?

I’m convinced the human author Peter (superintended by the divine author the Holy Spirit) wrote assuming his readers then and now know that biblical agape love is at the core of marriage. In this passage it is an unmentioned but assumed dynamic that directs Christian wives/husbands to “play their positions” on the marriage team according to the program of God/His game plan. This kind of love is not emotional but volitional. It is not about feelings but about faithfulness in seeking God’s glory and our spouse’s greatest good/blessing consistent with the will of God.

May the truths of 1 Peter 3:1-7 cause us to see marriage as a sacred and holy institution, which is designed to allow us to develop/display Christ-like attitudes and actions. Always true but seldom mentioned today: the purpose of marriage is not primarily to make us “happy” but to help make us holy. It is not just about loving our spouse but about expressing our love for our Savior by loving our spouse God’s way.