

LIVING IN EXILE

1 Peter 3:1-7 – The Christian Home

April 17, 2016

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands...Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way...

-Peter 3:1, 7

I. GOOD CONDUCT = GOOD GOSPEL

- Scripture is counter-intuitive in many places. Where the world says “fight for your rights,” the Scriptures say, “submit for the gospel” (Luke 6:29; 1 Cor. 6:7; 8:7-13).

II. RESPONSIBILITY OF CHRISTIAN WIVES (vss 1-6)

1. Be subject to your husbands.
2. “Win” unbelieving spouses with conduct, not words.
3. Seek internal beauty over external beauty.
4. Develop a “gentle and quiet spirit.”

Examples:

- The Old Testament saint Sarah is an example (Gen. 18:12).
- Jesus Himself is our greatest example (John 8:29; Phil. 2:5-8).

III. RESPONSIBILITY OF CHRISTIAN HUSBANDS (vs 7)

1. Be “understanding” or knowledgeable about your wife.
2. Honor your wife, recognize the differences God ordained.
3. Understand that they are co-heirs of Christ with you.
4. Ignore this, and expect God to ignore you.

IV. WHAT IF I’M NOT MARRIED?

- You may be one day.
- These principles, although applied specifically by Peter here, apply generally to most human relationships and interactions based on authority.

KNOW: God has ordained that men and women, although equal in value in God’s eyes, will have complimentary roles. Submission to God will bring about the greatest possibility for positive relationships between the sexes and for the greatest gospel good.

DO: Obey God and honor others in your relationships.

Suggested Reading:

Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood, by Piper & Grudem

Different by Design, by Carrie Sandom

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 1 Peter 3:1-7

1. Why does Peter start out this thought with the word “likewise” here and in verse 7? To what is he referring back?
2. Do you know of a person (husband or wife) who has an unbelieving spouse? How has that impacted them and their family (no names please)? What is the best biblical advice that we can give them?
3. What does it mean to dress modestly in our culture today? Does it apply only to women? How do we deal with a culture that is becoming more and more permissive in this area?
4. Do these verses mean a woman should never wear make-up or fix her hair? Why or why not?
5. What does Peter mean by a believing wife being an “heir” with the husband? What implications follow with that truth?
6. How can single people benefit from Sunday’s passage? What are the implications for them?