

1 Peter 3:1-6 Incorruptible Beauty

Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Today we come to this part of Peter's letter where he is talking about Husbands and wives –

A)And it is easy for those who are single – to think – I can tune out this doesn't apply to me - please Don't do that –

B)See Peter says some things here that apply to all of us – Married or single – Male and female

1)– young and old – or young and younger

C)Note here: Peters aim is not to give an extensive teaching on Marriage. That is not his point

D)We are still in this section that began in Ch 2 at V.11 where Peter was talking about our conduct amongst unbelievers

¹¹ Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

E)Living our lives in such a way where our lives might win others to Christ

Peter talked about our conduct in relationship to GOVT

A)Then he talked about our conduct in relationship to the workplace – Masters/ Slaves

B)And he is going to finish up talking about our conduct in the home.

C)His focus is primarily about a wife who is in an unequally yoked relationship

1)Now, if you're not familiar with that term that just sounded really weird to you.

2)"Unequally yoked marriage? What is that?"

D)Is that Like, when you don't cook your eggs evenly, or what is that?"

1)An unequally yoked marriage is a term that is used by Paul apostle when a believer is married to an unbeliever.

Peter describes that person as one who does not obey the word.

A)That could mean a man who has not responded to the gospel and given his heart to Jesus

B)But it can also apply to a man who professes Christ but who doesn't live his life by the word of God.

1)He is a man who is a Christian in name only –

C)There are a lot of those today!

D)But Peter says that man can be moved by 3 things that he sees in his wife–

1)Her Actions, He attitude and her Admiration

Before we look at what Peter says here – some background on the culture at that time would be helpful.

A)Important for us to filter the words of Peter through the context of what was going on in the world at that time

B)What were women who were living in the first century dealing with who would read this.

C)Rome was the Dominate influence in the world AND Male Dominance was written into Roman Law.

D)In the first century Roman culture – women did not really have any rights –

1)they were basically considered property

E)The common Roman prayer to the gods
*“Thank you that I am a Greek and not a Barbarian,
that I am a human and not an animal and most of
all that I am a MAN & NOT A WOMAN. “*

And because of that the Romans had a warped
view of marriage

A)Men were the **absolute heads of their
households.**

1)They could beat and kill their slaves.

B)They could discard their wives and they could
even kill their children – no 2nd thought

1)And with no recourse whatsoever.

C)The Roman mindset toward women said: *We
have prostitutes for sexual pleasure. We have
female slaves to take care of our bodies and we have
wives to bear children and to take care of the house.*

D)So literally under Roman Law a Husband was
obligated to provide a roof over his wife’s head

1)and the opportunity for her to bear Children. –

E)He didn’t owe her **DATE NIGHTS –
ROMANTIC DINNERS – Love Language –
Marriage conf. – NOTHING LIKE THAT**

Now although that was the culture in Rome at the
time of this writing – that was never God’s heart

A)When God created the first marriage in the
book of Genesis – **he described the husband and
wife as being one flesh**

B)The first Marriage was marked by a
Partnership – God blessed THEM and said to
THEM. –

C)There was an Ordered equality that was a part
of God’s original design for marriage –

1)That would become greatly skewed by Man’s sin
and rebellion

And it really wouldn’t be until Jesus came along
and the gospel was being preached in the Roman
Empire

A)that woman started being treated in the manner
that God intended.

B)Great example of this is when we read Paul’s
instruction about marriage in Ephesians 5 –

1)His instruction to the wife – submit to your
husband

C)That was not a novel idea in that culture –
Submission was demanded and expected in
Roman culture

1)The women would be like – DUH, Paul tell us
something that we don’t know

The New idea in Paul’s instruction on marriage
was in what Paul said to the Husbands – **Love
your wife like Christ loved the Church**

A)Serve her and give yourself to her like Jesus
loves, serves and gave himself to the Church

B)That was a new Concept – men didn’t think
along those lines –

1)The wife was property to be used – not really loved

C)Again here – Peter says Dwell with your wife in
Understanding – that was a new concept

D)The gospel moves marriage back in the
direction that God intended it to be – **Ordered
equality –**

1)Husband and Wife fulfilling their God ordained
roles to carry out the mission that God has given
them as a couple.

E)We are going to look at that a little more closely
next week when we focus on what Peter says to the
man.

Again the context here is a Christian woman being
married to a man who is an unbeliever – **or who is
not really following God**

A)Her temptation would be to try and get out of
that relationship as quickly as she possibly could –

B)And find a Christian Husband

B)Peter’s instruction is to not do that – **But
instead do what is expected/ and live in submission
to him**

C)God’s view of submission is this: Place yourself
under someone else in order to lift them higher.

D)Example given in Scripture of Submission to
follow is that seen in Jesus –

1)He was equal to the Father

2)But he submitted himself to the father in order to carry out the plan and mission of Salvation

E)Submission is a Christlike attribute that is beautiful in the eyes of God

1)Not the negative thing our culture makes it out to be

Pause here and say – A wife is never ever called to submit to her husband in anything that goes against scripture

A)For instance – if her husband wanted her to continue to join him in his worship of idols –

B)Like she did prior to coming to Christ

1)God would not expect her to submit to that

C)If you are married to a non-believer and he wants you to take part in a thing that goes against the Bible –

1)You are not required to submit to that AT ALL.

John Piper offers this: "The husband does not replace Christ as the woman's supreme authority. She must never follow her husband's leadership into sin. But even where a Christian wife may have to stand with Christ against the sinful will of her husband, she can still have a spirit of submission. She can show by her attitude and behavior that she does not like resisting his will and that she longs for him to forsake his sin and lead in righteousness so that her disposition to honor him as head can again produce harmony." Well said.

The Point of the instruction that Peter is giving here is that the unbelieving Husband – might be WON to the Lord

A)Or That the Husband who is not really following the Lord would be moved to really begin walking with Jesus

B)Peter wants the Wife to realize that she can impact her Husband with

1)her Actions, her attitude and her admiration

C)#1 Her Actions

Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

A)Actions speak louder than words – that is what Peter is getting at here

B)In other words – Don't Nag him – don't preach AT him –

C)Don't put tracks in his lunchbox or his sandwich

1)Don't tape Scriptures to the Bathroom window or toilet seat

D)Don't secretly preset with superglue all the radio stations in his Car to Christian Radio

1)Or set his cell phone ringer to John 3:16.

E)When the family sits down for a meal – don't offer to pray for food & turn it into an evangelistic event.

1)While our heads are bowed and eyes are closed....anyone here – show of hands - NO~!!!!!!!

Just live before him – let your actions speak louder than your words

A)Your husband might be deaf – but he is not blind

B)Barclay referred to this as the silent preaching of a lovely life.

C)Think about what a Shell shock it can be to a husband when his wife gets saved.

An unbelieving husband can suddenly feel threatened when his wife gets saved.

A)His wife is suddenly in love with someone else and it is someone he can't see.

B)When the two of them got married and took vows they vowed that nothing would come between them.

1)And now something has come between them – GOD

C)When they first got married he was #1 in her life – but now he has been demoted to #2

1)THAT IS HARD

D)On top of all of that "She's always gone on Sundays. (One of his day offs)

1)She's got those weird Christian friends. She sings these songs I've never heard of before."

E)He could feel like I don't even know this woman anymore. **She's, like, a Alien to him."**

So the Christian wife married to an unbeliever – needs to find the balance of following Jesus

A)without alienating her husband

B)Peter says if she can do that – her husband might be won to Jesus by her actions.

C)The 2nd thing that Peter says can impact him is her adornment

D)That happens when **her Attitude is her prettiest feature.**

V.3 "Do not let your adornment be merely outward---arranging the hair, wearing gold, putting on fine apparel---rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and a quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God."

It is tough to be a woman today.

A)The beauty industry is a \$532 billion dollar industry

B)Women are constantly being sent a message through ad campaigns – Magazines social media post

1)The message is this: **YOU ARE NOT ENOUGH**

C)Not pretty enough – not thin enough – not good enough

1)Women are made to feel inferior, ugly, and unlovable. And the consequences are mounting.

This obsession with beauty is not modern problem it goes all the way back to antiquity

A)They've done archaeological digs in Rome and they found that 2,000 years ago when this was written women dyed their hair, sometimes weird, bold colors.

B)They also wore wigs. And you know what the most popular color of a wig was two thousand years ago? **Guess. A blonde wig.**

1)Can you imagine that? Even in the Roman Empire two thousand years ago, blondes had more fun.

C)That was those godless pagan Roman women!

1)Actually they found blond wigs in the Catacombs of the Christians –

2)Some of the Christian women also wore wigs

Note: What Peter is giving us here is not a legalistic ban on fashion or style.

A)We all like beauty. God created beauty. We admire beauty.

B)When a Christian person takes steps to make themselves look good –

1)God doesn't have a problem with that!

C)Famed Pastor J V Magee – **Barn needs painting paint it**

Peter is not being anti beauty here – He is talking priorities – "Do not let your adornment be merely outward-

A)Being interested in your appearance as a man or woman is not a sinful thing – normal

B)Peter wants Christian women to understand that their prettiest feature should be the inner person.

1)That pertains to all us here – Male/ female – married or single

C)In fact listen to how the Bible describes a woman who is pretty on the outside –

1)but is not pretty on the inside.

Proverbs 11:22: **'Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion.'** Pic of that

The Greek word translated “adorn” is kosmos, which speaks of an ordered universe

A)The word means to order and to arrange and we get our English word Cosmetic from this word.

B)So when Peter says don't let your adornment be merely outward he is talking priority here

C)He is exhorting women not to neglect the outward, but to make the inward hidden person their priority

D)He is talking about who you are on the inside – who you are when no one is looking –

1)That is the real you!

Distinction between Incorruptible beauty vs corruptible beauty –

A)Glamour and true beauty

"Glamour is artificial and external true beauty is real & internal.

*Glamour is something you can put on and take off
But true beauty is always present -*

Glamour is something that is corruptible it decays & fades

B) True beauty is TIMELESS from the heart & grows more wonderful as the years pass!

C) Give PRIORITY to beautifying your heart and as you do –

1) there is a good chance your husband is going to be so attracted to that - To the Lord shining in you!

Now I have always found my wife Denise to be beautiful woman –

A) But when I first met her Country bumkin – Baggy overall – flannel – Birks

B) What really grabbed me was her inner beauty

1) I was so attracted to her heart for Jesus – she drew me in big time by her heart

C) The Goal is being beautiful inside and out. – MY GIRLS

D) Peter describes this inner beauty as a gentle and quiet spirit

The word "gentle" is meek. You know what meek means? It doesn't mean cowering.

A) The word "meek" means power under control –

B) Derived from the idea of a powerful horse brought into submission

C) A gentle spirit is somebody whose spirit is under God's control. It's a wife who's under God's control:

Your mouth under God's control, your responses under God's control, your emotions... God's control.

A) That's MEEKNESS

B) When Denise and I moved into our first home – rented – from Apartment –

1) she was invited by the lady across the street –

C) Monday's the ladies on our street gather at my house for lunch and to complain about our HUSBANDS

No thank you – I actually love my husband

A) Believe me – it wasn't like there wasn't anything to complain about –

B) But Denise was not going to get caught up in that

1) Exercises meekness - power under control

C) Denise eventually led our neighbor to faith in Jesus – Mondays ended

Meekness is an inner strength that is derived from knowing who you are in Jesus –

A) Realizing that inner beauty is what matters most

B) Proverbs 31:25 speaking of the Virtuous wife declares *"strength and dignity are her clothing - she smiles at the future!"*

Bb) She is inwardly clothed w/ strength of character and confidence

C) Peter also says She has a quiet spirit – he is not describing a wall flower

A person who is seen and not heard.

D) The idea speaks of having a calming influence a tranquility of heart

E) Her home is refuge and a sanctuary from all the stress that comes from life, responsibilities and work

1) She is a place of refuge to her husband

So Peter is telling us that a wife can impact her unbelieving husband or husband who I not really walking with Jesus by

A) Her actions – when her actions speak louder than her words

B) #2 By her Adornment – when her attitude is her prettiest feature

C) #3 When her Admiration is more Biblical than conventional

What I mean by that is that when she is looking for role models and examples,

A)She looks in the Bible, not in People magazine. V.5

5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

A)What Peter does is point back to, biblical women as examples.

B)"Look, to gals like Sarah, not Cleopatra; not the Kardashians – not Oprah – Not Jill Biden

C)Peter points to Sarah – who is actually called in Scripture a very beautiful women

1)But Peter is revealing here that her beauty was more than skin deep.

D)She was a woman of beautiful countenance too!

Her beauty was seen in the way that she responded to her husband – she called him lord. What?

A)Suggesting – when my husband comes home from work – greet him – **welcome home to your kingdom lord?**

B)What would you like for dinner lord? - NO!!!!!!!!!!

C)The term simply means to treat him with respect

A woman's greatest need and desire is to be loved and man's greatest need and desire is to be respected. – EE

D)True – Biblical

In fact Paul in Ephesians sums up his whole teaching on marriage with these words:

³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Now maybe some of you ladies are thinking – Well my husband is no Abraham –

A)You can be thankful for that

B)Abraham was a man who had many failures – When famine hit rather than trusting God –

C)Abraham told Sarah – lets go to Egypt – which was the epitome of worldliness – because there is food there.

D)As they were arriving – in Egypt – Abe said to Sarah – you are a very beautiful woman –

1)NICE right – what woman doesn't like to be told she is beautiful

E)Then he said – You are so beautiful these people are going to kill me to get to you –

1)so tell them you are my sister – WHAT?

Here is what happened – Pharaoh ended up taking Sarah into his Harem

A)But God protected Sarah – and wouldn't let Pharaoh touch her

B)And this the whole point of Peter's illustration in using Sarah as an example –

1)Sarah trusted God even when she could not trust her husband

C)And God took care of her! God protected her! -

1)You are HIS DAUGHTER

When your husband is making poor decisions – you trust God to take care of you.

A)The Adornment that Sarah is commended for is that she trusted God in submitting to her husband – even when she couldn't trust Abraham

B)One last thing – The Motivation that Peter gives for being this sort of person -

1)V.4 It is precious in the sight of God****

C)His glory!

D)Submission starts with being submitted to Jesus