

BRIDGE  CHURCH

FAMILY DEVOTION

1 PETER 3:1-7



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Peter turns the theme of submission to the home. His focus on this section is marriage and the relationship between husband and wife. A beautiful truth is some men entering Heaven giving glory to God on the day of Christ's final visitation – will owe their very salvation to the honorable conduct and good deeds of a wife who determined to live out her day in real, costly, and faithful submissions. There are earthly, worldly husbands who were saved through the example of women who powerfully, mysteriously and with out fear learned to entrust themselves to God's promised care. They submitted to Jesus Christ in their act of submission in their marriage and thus their household was won. There is a need of clarity when it comes to submission in the home and what it means for the Christian wife. Submission does not mean for Christians wives a few things:

1. It does not mean if the husband asks her to abandon faith, that they should do so.
2. It does not mean that wives must always agree with their husbands and never present a differing view.
3. It does not mean if unfaithful, the wife is left with out biblical recourse.
4. It does not mean if the wife is abused or abandoned through verbal humiliation; then she is to remain silent in the home and accept the daily cruelty of that relationship at all cost.

The principle of submission is directly related to the person of Jesus who is our example! Submission is not an adherence to a principle but a recognition to the person who compels us to submit in order to live our lives of godly obedience. In every example of submission Peter gave, the sole purpose is for the Christian to present themselves before a watching world as people who emulate Jesus Christ!

This Section is not just for Christians wives married to an unbelieving husband but for all Christian wives. The word submission in Greek is a military term that means "to place under rank." This implies that God has a place for everything and had ordained various levels of authority. In Ephesians 5:21-22 the Apostle Paul says, "and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord." God ordained the husband to be the head of the home and to submit to himself to Christ. Headship is not dictatorship but loving exercise of divine authority under the lordship of Jesus Christ. Submission also does not mean the wife is inferior to her husband as Peter says in verses 7, they are co-heirs. Submission is all about order and authority not evaluation. Both husband and wife must first submit to Christ, because both are partners not competitors.

Questions:

1. In verses 1-2 it speaks that submission brings opportunity to win an unsaved husband to Christ. This is a powerful spiritual influence in the home.
 - a. Wives, how do these two verses make you initially feel?
 - b. Was there a time where either of you were the "saved" one and the other was not "saved"?
 - c. How did you minister to your unsaved husband/wife, did you preach at them or show them the love of Jesus by your actions and service?

2. The word Adorn means “kosmos” and is where we get our modern word cosmetics. The women of the Roman Empire were much like the women today. Their focus was on the external and having the most expensive clothes, best hairstyles and finest jewelry. Peter says women’s adornment should be internal meaning, true beauty comes from within.
 - a. Have there been times where your sole focus was your external?
 - b. Have you ever thought by focusing on your external, it would improve your marriage or relationships?
3. Verse 7 speaks on how a husband is to live and behave toward their wife. The truth is many married couples can live together and not really know each other. Peter is saying that husbands need to listen with their heart and share meaningful communication with their wives.
 - a. In this time of being at home more, has there been better communication or worse communication?
 - b. What are ways you two can set time aside to have meaningful communication?

Conclusion

Giving honor does not mean giving in. Two people can disagree but still honor each other. Husbands are to respect their wife’s feelings, thinking and desires. Wives are to honor their husbands in submission as to the Lord and both are to submit themselves to Jesus Christ! Spend some time together praying for each other and ask God how you both can bring honor to each other and to your marriage.