

Relationships Part Seven - The Woman In Marriage

1 Peter 3:1 - *Submission to Husbands* - 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,

We are now in lesson number seven in this series **on relationships**.

Last week's lesson was about the man's role in marriage.

- We learned that men are called to love their wives even as Christ loved the church!
- Everything that *Jesus did for the church*, men ought to do for their wives!

This week is about the woman's role in marriage. Our text tonight talks about submission! Wow. This is a tough topic!

There is not really any way for me to come out of this message looking good in your eyes! Somebody say...help the pastor today!

This is a very difficult topic to teach about in this generation... it is especially difficult for a man to teach about **wives being submissive**.

This writing from **Peter** comes **after he taught on submission to authority** in the previous chapter.

- Peter taught on submission to the government and the laws of the land.
- Submission to employers.
- Later in chapter five, he teaches on ***submission to authority*** in the church.
- Submission to Jesus Christ as the head, and then submission to the elders and the pastor who are under Christ.

Sandwiched in between these two teachings on **submission is our text**.

Peter is teaching on the wife's submission to her husband. Submission in the home.

Why so much teaching on submission?

Submission is how **authority and anointing** are transferred from one person to another!

If we are not submitted to authority...we cannot have authority.

- If you are ***not submitted*** to your employer...you **do not** have his authority.
- If we are ***not submitted*** to God...we ***cannot*** have His anointing.

A church that is submitted has great **power and anointing** with God!

Submission in marriage is a debatable topic...there are many that ***don't agree with*** this teaching.

- They think it is for another time / It is outdated / It is chauvinistic.

Some of you ladies have read these scriptures and have already made up your minds about them...but **please hear me out today**, this is in the Bible for a reason.

The reason that so **many marriages are failing today** is because they are not built upon the principles that are **found in God's word!**

- **More than anybody else. God wants your marriage to succeed.**
 - **That is why the Bible gives us so much teaching about marriage!**
 - **I believe that we ought to pay attention to what the Bible says in this generation! AMEN???**
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In our generation there are three categories that describe most marriages:

1) Marriage of disunity.

In this marriage there is no distinction between ***the roles of husband and wife***. They live parallel lives, **legally married** but in function they are single.

- The only thing they have in common is the kids.
- **Separate** bank accounts.
- **Separate** professions.
- **Separate** friends.
- Sometimes they even have **separate** bedrooms.

One of the growing trends in new home design is two master bedrooms suites...that enables these kinds of couples **to exist basically as room-mates.**

Almost all of these marriages end in divorce.

2) Marriage of partial unity.

This couple **also lives parallel lives, but often share some unifying activities.**

- **Kids** keep them together.
- **Portions** of their lives intersect.
- They may have some similar hobbies.
- **They may go to church together** and put up a good front.
- But for the most part **they live separate lives.**

When the kids leave, this marriage usually blows up.

This is when **mid-life crisis occurs.**

3) Marriage of unity...One Flesh!

The Husband and wife fulfill distinct and equal roles. They live as one with a unified purpose and under God's authority.

- **God is Lord** over all.
- **The husband loves** the woman as Christ loves the church.
- **The wife respects** and follows the leadership of her husband.
- **The children obey** their parents.

This is the marriage that **God designed.**

This is the marriage that becomes one flesh as the Bible teaches.

Listen now. The man is not the highest authority in marriage, God is the highest authority.

Even the government and the law have a higher authority.

What I mean by that, is the woman ***does not*** have to live under the authority of a man who disobeys the laws of God and the laws of society.

- **If the man is breaking the law** - she can call the police.
- **If the man is breaking the laws of God** - she can call the pastor.

The scripture ***does not*** set the husband up as the lord of all.

- **Jesus is the only Lord of all.**

Eph 5:22-24 - ²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own ***husbands as you do to the Lord.*** ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Paul said that there is a way to submit.

Wives are to submit unto their husbands as we would submit unto the Lord.

- **Jesus did not make you serve Him.**
- **Jesus did not lord over you.**
- **Jesus did not intimidate you.**
- **Jesus lead you by example.**

That is how we are to lead our homes men...we lead by example!

- **When you questioned Jesus' teaching,**
- **He left you alone and gave you time to come around and see it His way....**
- **He does not make you conform to His word.**

But, we eventually submit unto the Lord because of our love and respect for Him.

This is the picture that Paul is painting for women. Women submit to their husbands out of love and respect for him.

You may think that this teaching is old-fashioned and outdated...but **it works!**

If the husband loves his wife as Christ loves the church... humbly, sacrificially, respectfully and compassionately.... then your wife will love, respect, and honor you in all things.

Does anybody believe that today?

The wife is not less than the husband, nor the husband ***less than the wife***...both man and woman were made in the image of God.

- We are equal.
- Yet God has given us ***different roles***.
- Since the man ***could not*** do it all alone...***God made him a helpmate***.

Men...we need help! That ***doesn't mean*** we make them help us.

Submission Does Not Mean:

- A husband is the ***final and ultimate*** authority.
- A wife is ***less intelligent*** than her husband.
 1. Often ***the wife is more intelligent***.
- A wife does not have her own thoughts.
- A wife does not seek to influence her husband.
 1. A wife should ***help and advise*** her husband....
my wife gives me advice all the time!
 2. You should seek to ***influence your husband***.
- A wife must ***obey*** her husband's command to sin.

Submission Does Mean:

1. A husband and wife ***are equal with complementary roles***.
2. Husbands are to ***lovingly lead like Jesus leads us***.
3. ***Wives are to submit like Jesus did*** in the Garden of Gethsemane when He said, ***"Nevertheless not my will, but thine be done."***

Jesus thought there might be a better way. ***He asked for this cup of suffering to be taken away***. But He eventually ***submitted to God's will***.

That is what submission is!

What happens when you disagree?

- We will **all have disagreements** in our marriages.
- Men you can't **force** things on your wife.

Here is what you can do....

1. **Pray and discuss the options with your wife.**

She may not agree right away...Be patient. Give her time to think about it. Wait for her to come around.

2. If disagreements get out of control....**Appeal to a higher authority** (pastor). Sometimes a mediator is needed.
3. **If the matter is pressing and/or a decision cannot be reached, the husband must decide.**

His wife should respectfully submit to the decision like Jesus did in the garden.

I want to read on in our text - 1 Peter 3:1-6 - Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, **if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives,**² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.³ Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes.⁴ Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.⁵ For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands,⁶ like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

Peter goes on to address those wives who have unbelieving husbands. He said you have to win them without words!

If you are always trying to preach to him and tell him what a sinner, he is...

- You may **never** win him....

- ***But if you love, serve, and respect your husband -***
- **And you pray that God would use you as a living testimony...**
- **You have a much greater chance of winning him to the Lord!**
- **It is not your outward beauty that wins him.**
- **It is the inner beauty of the heart.**

In verses five and six, Peter gives us the example of Sarah as a submissive wife.

In actuality, **Sarah was not a perfect wife.**

1. She persuaded her husband ***to commit adultery***.
2. She went along with a plan to ***deceive the King*** into believing she was **Abraham's sister...**she did this twice.
3. When God revealed His plan for her life....***she laughed at God***.

Why would Peter choose Sarah as our example for a wife?

Why not Ruth or Esther or Mary? Why Sarah?

Have you ever laughed at your husband when He shared His plan for your life together?

Peter chose Sarah as our example because she was like most woman. Nobody is perfect...there will be times when you laugh at your husband's plans and ideas.

There will be times when you mess up....

Peter's message was that you can mess up and *still be a good wife*.

Sarah eventually got it right and submitted to God and to her husband. And she became **the mother of the nation of Israel! **AMEN!!!!****

We can find a few more roles of the woman in....

Titus 2:4-5 – ⁴Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, ⁵to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign (blasphemed) the word of God.

- **Love your husband.**
- Love your children.
- **Manage** your household affairs - **keepers** at home.
- **Discipline** and teach your children.

The Bible commands the children to **forsake not** the law of the mother!

- For the most part the man is the provider...
- With help from his wife when needed.
- The woman keeps the home and raises the children....
- With help from her husband.

CLOSE:

Through mutual love and respect for one another over the course of their marriage there is a cleaving together – and they become one flesh as God intended them to be!