

Metro Calvary Women's Bible Studies

1 Peter 3:1-6

Lesson 9

Submit?!?!? Who? Me? Can you relate? The answer is "Yes!" Prior verses in 1 Peter have taught us we are to submit to those in government authority, and to submit to masters (such as employers). Today's lesson instructs wives to submit to their own husbands. The Word of God commands all wives who name the name of Jesus as their Savior. May your heart be tender towards all of God's desires for you!

DAY ONE: Read 1 Peter 3:1-6

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

a. From 1 Peter 3:1- 6 list below the subject(s) covered in this section.

Verses 1-6

2. How would you title this section? Record your title on the Chapter & Paragraph Division Chart.

3. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on your chart.

From previous lessons: God

New to this lesson: submissive, wives/wife, husbands, and likewise

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 1 Peter 3:1-6. Remember, as you mark the words God, wives, and husbands to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them.

4. Peter used the word **likewise** twice in 1 Peter 3:1-7 (verses 1 and 7). Thoughtfully record each verse below and underline who is being addressed.

Verse 1

Verse 7

DAYS TWO & THREE Read 1 Peter 3:1-2

1. What do you think the word **likewise** refers to? Likewise means “In the same manner or in the same way” referring back to Chapter 2 in speaking of the conduct of the Christian sufferer. See 1 Peter 2:13, 1 Peter 2:18, 1Peter 2:21-25.

2. Read Genesis 2:18. What does God say in this passage about the significant role of a wife plays in a marriage relationship?

Genesis 2:18

a. This passage is a good reminder to us married and unmarried women as we study this passage this week! For those of you who are married, in what ways do you see yourself as a **helper** to your husband?

3. Observe 1 Peter 3:1-2 in the NIV translation: “*Wives, in the same way be submissive to your 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, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.*” Why can this kind of behavior from a wife so powerful and influential to her husband?

4. Again, let’s refresh our memory with the word **submit** by looking it up in your Concordance and writing out the English definition.

Subjection (Submit)-

5. God has designed and ordained an order for the marriage relationship. Let’s look at Ephesians 5:22-24 to explain the 1 Peter 3:1a instruction: *wives...be submissive to your own husbands*, and answer the questions below.

Ephesians 5:22-24 ²²*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.* ²³*For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.* ²⁴*Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.”*

a. What is the motivation for the wife to submit to her husband according to verse 22b, and what does that mean to you?

b. What order of submission do we see in these verses?

- 1.
- 2.

6. Let's look at 1 Corinthians 11:3 and note the three orders of submission in this passage.

1 Corinthians 11:3 *"³But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."*

1)

2)

3)

a. How would knowing that *Christ is head of every man* encourage a response of submission to your husband?

b. How does knowing that Christ, God in the flesh was under an order of submission to His Father, speak to you?

Submission involves at least **Four** things.

First, it begins with an attitude of **entrusting oneself to God**. This is crucial for you and I to get! (see 1 Peter 2:23; 24; 25). The focus of our life must be on Jesus Christ.

Second, submission requires respectful behavior (see 1 Peter 3:1; 3:2). **Nagging** is not respectful behavior! Conviction, Conviction!

Third, submission involves the development of a godly character (see 1 Peter 3:3; 3:4; 3:5). Lord, please let this seep deep within our hearts!

Fourth, submission includes doing what is right! (see 1 Peter 3:6). It does not mean violating other Scriptural principles. Submission is imperative for oneness in marriage sisters!!

7. The submission of women to their husbands does not imply inferiority to men. How does the following verse confirm this?

Galatians 3:28

a. "**Hupotasso**" is not a spineless submission but, as one writer has eloquently described, it is a "voluntary selflessness." How do you and I become selfless according to Matthew 16:24-25? As you read this passage there are many wonderful truths for you to mine out. Selah~Think on it and then respond!

Matthew 16:24-25 ²⁴Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

b. Submission is based on the death of pride on one hand and the desire to serve on the other. How does pride and the denial of your rights get in the way of serving your husband and others?

c. Once again we need to refer back to the example of Jesus when applying these principles to our lives. Jesus never commands anything of us that He himself did not practice. How do we see the practice of self denial and submission in the life of Jesus from the following passage?

Philippians 2:5-8? *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."*

I KNOW THAT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MIGHT BE A LITTLE LENGTHY, BUT I FEEL THAT IT IS VERY VALUABLE FOR US IN UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT OF THESE PASSAGES CONCERNING WOMEN'S SUBMISSION TO THEIR HUSBANDS.

"In every sphere of ancient civilization, women had no rights at all. **Under Jewish law** a woman was a thing; she was owned by her husband in exactly the same way as he owned his sheep and his goats; on no account could she leave him, although he could dismiss her at any moment. For a wife to change her religion while her husband did not was unthinkable. In **Greek civilization** the duty of the woman was "to remain indoors and to be obedient to her husband." It was the sign of a good woman that she must see as little, hear as little and ask as little as possible. She had no kind of independent existence and no kind of mind of her own, and her husband could divorce her almost at caprice, so long as he returned her dowry.

Under Roman law a woman had no rights. In law she remained forever a child. When she was under her father she was under the **patria potestas**, the father's power, which gave the father the right even of life and death over her; and when she married she passed equally into the power of her husband. She was entirely subject to her husband and completely at his mercy.

The Roman Cato wrote: "If you were to catch your wife in an act of infidelity, you can kill her with impunity without a trial."

What a contrast with Christianity which commands husbands to love their wives unconditionally!

The whole attitude of ancient civilization was that no woman could dare take any decision for herself. What, then, must have been the problems of the wife who became a Christian while her husband remained faithful to the ancestral gods? It is almost impossible for us to realize what life must have been for the wife who was brave enough to become a Christian."

8. 1 Peter 3:1 continues with, "*Wives be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word...*" Look up in your Concordance the phrase, "**obey not**," and write out the English definition.

Obey not-

9. A Christian wife has an incredible opportunity to influence the life of her husband, Christian and non Christian alike. I heard a saying once that the husband is the head, but the wife is the neck! Think about that for a moment! What do you learn from 1 Peter 3:1-2 about the influence a Christian woman has on her unbelieving husband?

Keep in mind the social context of Paul's time, in which a wife was expected to accept the customs and religious rites of her husband. The Christian wife is exhorted to be in subjection to her unsaved husband, in order that he might won without a word, not "**the Word**" (the gospel), be won by the **behavior** of the wife

10. In this modern day culture with women's lib and women's rights, how would a Christian woman with a **pure** and **reverent** behavior towards her husband (1 Peter 3:2b Phillips translation) have an impact not only on her husband but also on the unbelievers who are looking on?

11. There might be some of you doing this bible study who are at this moment are living with an unbelieving husband. Have you experienced victories in your marriage as you have taken this passage to heart?

12. There are many Christian women who are married to Christian husbands, but who are not spiritual leaders in their homes. How does this passage from 1 Peter 3:1b apply to you as well?

13. Peter wants the Christian women to win their husbands by a life of reverence and purity expressed in a submissive attitude that honors him as the head of the home. It is the character and conduct of the wife that will win the lost husband or the lukewarm husband—not arguments, or nagging. The right attitudes that will be productive are revealed to us in Galatians 5:22-25. Notice that these qualities are not manufactured. What are they outcome of?

May you be encouraged as you read the following story!

George Müller told of a wealthy German whose wife was a devout believer. This man was a heavy drinker, spending late nights in the tavern. She would send the servants to bed, stay up till he returned, receive him kindly, and never scold him or complain. At times she would even have to undress him and put him to bed. One night in the tavern he said to his cronies, "I bet if we go to my house, my wife will be sitting up, waiting for me. She'll come to the door, give us a royal welcome, and even make supper for us, if I ask her."

They were skeptical at first, but decided to go along and see. Sure enough, she came to the door, received them courteously, and willingly agreed to make supper for them without the slightest trace of resentment. After serving them, she went off to her room. As soon as she had left, one of the men began to condemn the husband. "What kind of a man are you to treat such a good woman so miserably?"

The accuser got up without finishing his supper and left the house. Another did the same and another till they had all departed without eating the meal. Within a half hour, the husband became deeply convicted of his wickedness, and especially of his heartless treatment of his wife. He went to his wife's room, asked her to pray for him, repented of his sins, and surrendered to Christ. From that time on, he became a devoted disciple of the Lord Jesus. Won without a word!

DAY FOUR: Read 1 Peter 3:3-4

1. Read 1 Peter 3:3-4. The instructions of these verses are directed to wives, but are applicable for **all** women. Here Peter contrasts the value of external beauty against internal adornment. Fill in the blanks below.

a. Verse 3, "Do not let your adornment be _____."

b. Verse 4, "But rather let it be _____."

2. What do these verses suggest to you about the importance of a woman's appearance?

As a Christian wife seeks to live before her husband, Peter commands (**present imperative** = continuous or habitual action called for) her not to depend upon her outward adornment to win her husband to the Lord. Her adornment must come from within, that sounds kind of obvious to us doesn't it. Sometimes we forget that it is from a heart permeated with the beauty and fragrance of Christ, and the presence of the Lord Jesus in the life of the wife that will attract the unbelieving or lukewarm husband to the Lord!

3. Consider one reason the adornment of the heart is more important than the outer adornment by filling in the blank from 1 Peter 3:4b. “with the _____ beauty”

a. Look up and write out the definition of the word **incorruptible** from the Dictionary.

b. Our internal adornment is incorruptible. It is beyond the reach of time and decay. In response to the instruction of 1 Peter 3:3-4b how can we, as Christian women, resist the world’s excessive preoccupation with outward appearance?

c. List a few practical ways we can improve our inward beauty.

4. Look once again at 1 Peter 3:3-4 concentrating on verse 4c. What is very precious in the sight of God?

5. Look up the following words from your dictionary and write out the definitions.

Gentle-

Quiet-

6. What is the opposite of a **gentle** and **quiet** spirit?

Gentle-

Quiet-

c. How does having a **gentle** and **quiet** spirit affect our attitudes and relationships?

7. How does the Virtuous Woman of Proverbs 31:10-31 exemplify a gentle and quiet spirit? What specifically speaks to you from her example?

8. Peter cautions women against investing their worth on their physical appearance to the detriment of their inward beauty! What does Matthew 6:19-21 reveal about those things we treasure here on earth?

Matthew 6:19-21 *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*”

9. What does proverbs 31:30 reveal about true beauty? “

DAY FIVE: Read 1 Peter 3:5-6

1. We will benefit from the examples given to us in 1 Peter 3:5-6. What do you learn from the following:

a. Verse 5a

2. Look up the word **holy** in your Concordance and write out the English definition.

Holy-

These women lived holy lives because they lived **separated** lives, separated from the world out from which God had saved them. If these wives lived holy lives, it can be done in the immoral agnostic days in which we are living in too sisters!

3. Describe the holy women from 1 Peter 3:5b.

a. Focus on the phrase "**who trusted in God**". Why is this essential?

4. Look up the word **trusted** in your Concordance and write out the English definition.

Trusted-

(**elpizo** from **elpis**) means to look forward with confidence to that which is good and beneficial. It means to to anticipate, usually with pleasure, expecting some benefit. The word does not mean "I hope so". This hope reflects an absolute certainty of future good. The **present tense** indicates **hope** was the habitual practice.

5. 1 Peter 3:6 says, "as Sarah obeyed Abraham..." Look up the word **obeyed** in your Concordance and write out the English definition.

Obeyed-

6. 1 Peter 3:6 tells us Sarah called Abraham lord, (Obviously not in the sense that he was a "god.") which revealed her honor and respect for her husband. How is she an example for a Christian wife?

7. Verse 6 says, “as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror”. Look up and write out other Bible translations of this verse that might help you get a fuller understanding of the phrase, “and are not afraid with any terror.”

Lenski writes, “If a Christian wife was suffering for her faith because of her conduct, she could gain great confidence by doing what Peter counseled and what Sarah practiced. She could understand that any suffering that came her way was not a result of her sinful behavior but in spite of her godly behavior (cf. 2:20; Pr 3:25). The sense is that these Christian women are to let nothing terrifying frighten them from their course. The daughters of Sarah are not to fear anything but displeasing God. They know that following Christ will mean suffering. But they believe God's promises!

DAY SIX: Read 1 Peter 3:1-6

1. How have the roles of a husband and wife changed in the last twenty years?
 - a. What do you think is good about the changes?
 - b. What do you think is bad about the changes?
2. Choose a marriage relationship that you know of and share what you admire about that relationship.
3. What qualities can a believing wife use to submit to an unbelieving husband?
4. Using today's lesson, contrast inward and outward beauty.
5. In what ways have you been challenged by this lesson?

Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. - Proverbs 31:10