

## BIBLE TEXT | 1 PETER 3:1-7

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**1** Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, **2** when they see your respectful and pure conduct. **3** Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— **4** but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. **5** For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, **6** as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

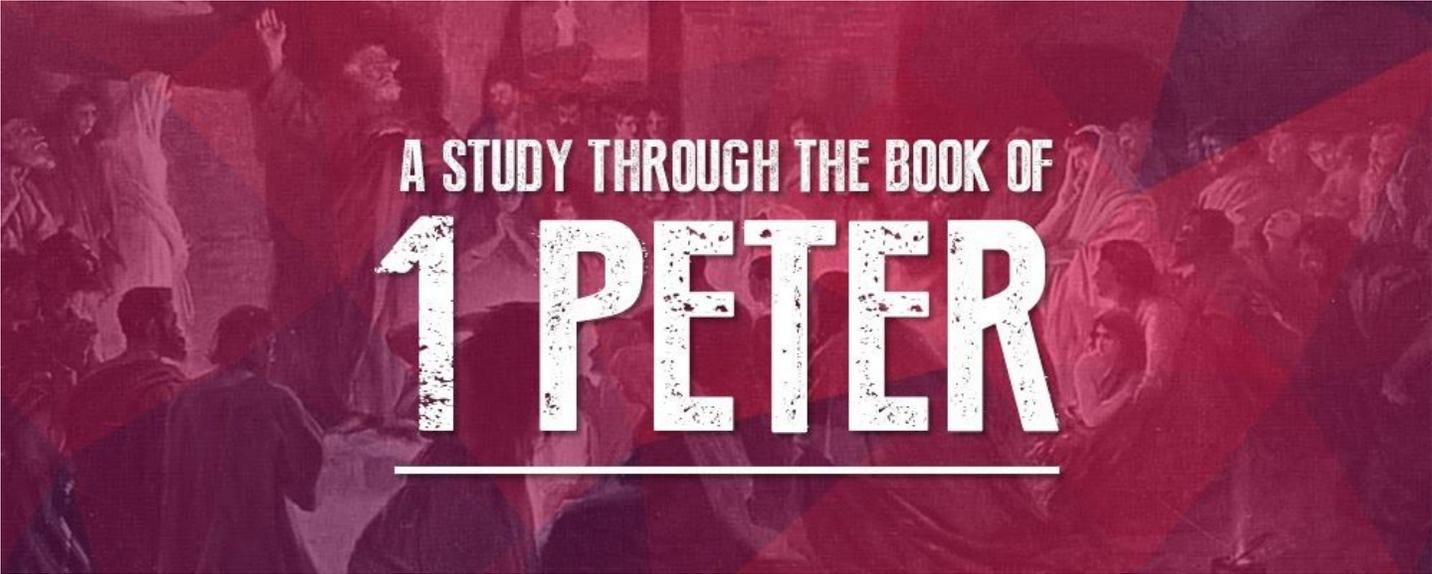
**7** Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

## DEVOTIONAL FOR 1 PETER 3:1-7

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In a time where persecution was spreading throughout the region, Nero was holding the power. Christians couldn't run for office or cast a vote. There was no religious freedom or bill of rights. Yet the Church was turning the world upside down. A part of that change was the relationship between husbands and wives. Wives in the Roman culture had no rights. They were considered property of their husbands. But when Christ came, he brought equality to all people, including men and women (Galatians 3:28). Peter began to address how wives and husbands were to behave in a way that brought honor to the Lord, even in the midst of suffering.



# A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF 1 PETER

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In verse 1, Peter first tells wives to be subject to their husbands. As wives, the word "subject" or "submit" can be difficult to read or hear. But Peter explains that as we submit and show respect to our husbands, we get to show Christ to them in our conduct. Out of that our husbands may grow in their faith or even come to know the Lord. When I look at it that way, this should be a complete privilege as a wife, not a burden! This is a time in which we practice humility, for Jesus, not our husband. We get to honor the Lord as we honor our husbands. Note that Scripture never says women in general are to be subject to men in general, but it does affirm male headship in the home and in the church (Ephesians 4:23; 1 Tim. 2:11-15). While we are equal in value, God has given us different and unique roles.

Then Peter addresses husbands in verse 7. God never intended for husbands to lead out of selfish ambition or dictate decisions by themselves. God wants husbands to lead out of humility, out of servanthood, like Christ did (Philippians 2:5-8; Ephesians 5:25-28). He instructs husbands to lead in an understanding way (vs. 7) and to show honor to his wife. This had profound implications for husbands during Peter's day and still does. To be understanding, he must know his wife by listening to her, studying her and talking with her, continuously. Peter ends by reminding husbands that wives are fellow heirs of God's grace and not inferior in any way.

Christian husbands, you have an opportunity in our world today to display the good news of the gospel in the way you love and cherish your wife by fully knowing her and understanding her. Christian wives, we have an opportunity to display the good news of the gospel in the way we submit and show respect to our husbands. Honor God by honoring one another! Submit to God by submitting to one another. Obey God by serving one another. Christ changes the world through His people. It can start in our marriages.

## Questions:

1. What does verse 2 mean, when Peter states "when they see your respectful and pure conduct"?
2. How does God reveal his message through marriage?
3. If Scripture is clear that men and women are equal in value, what do you think the phrase "showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel" means practically for husbands?