

A Call to Hope and Holiness | A Study of 1 Peter

Married Life, Happy Life | 1 Peter 3:1-7 | 5.12.19

1 Peter 2:20-25 *For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. ²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ²² “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth” ²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

- Injustice occurs in various and numerous forms on this side of Heaven.
- God is aware of every injustice that occurs within our lives.
- God’s timing and response to injustice is perfect.
- God allowed His Son to experience the greatest degree of injustice.
- Jesus’ example of suffering was for historical information and personal application.
- The example of Jesus is displayed in two ways in this passage:
 - He suffered without sinning; not one sinful word came from his mouth
 - He trusted God the Father to judge the injustice.

There is nothing natural about this type of response, therefore we must pray, inviting God’s grace to give us the desire and ability to follow Christ’s example.

1 Peter 3:1-6 *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.*

Culture has painted the word **submission** in a very dark and ugly way. The American version of Christianity provided the paintbrush and canvas.

In Ephesians 5, *the roles of the husband and wife* are rooted in the distinctive **roles of Christ and His church**. The Trinity models submission! Jesus, God the Son, was submissive to the God the Father. The Holy Spirit was submissive to God the Son and God the Father.

Genesis 2:24-25 | God’s Original Plan:

- Severance - shall leave his father and mother
- Permanence - shall cleave to his wife
- Unity - they shall be one flesh
- Intimacy - they were naked and not ashamed

The greatness and glory of marriage is beyond our ability to fully comprehend without divine revelation that comes from the Holy Spirit. The man without Christ does not have the capacities to perceive or feel the wonder of what God has designed the marriage to be.

“A strange situation exists in society today. We have more readily available information about sex and marriage than ever before; yet we have more marital problems and divorces.” W. Wiersbe

Sin has twisted God’s plan for loving leadership and submission within the marriage. Sin did *not* create headship and submission; it distorted it into something dirty and destructive.

Marriage is two flawed people living together in a fallen world, surrounded by the redemptive work of God’s grace in Jesus Christ!

- **Headship** is the *divine calling of a husband* to take primary responsibility for Christ-like, servant leadership, protection, and provision in the home.
- **Submission** is the *divine calling of a wife* to honor and affirm her husband’s leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts.

Genesis 3 | The Fall of Man affected the marriage relationship of every generation to come. As a result of sin, the **husbands’ humble and loving headship** is seriously tainted with temptations of aggressive selfish desires, misplaced priorities, idols of the heart, and lazy indifference to spiritual responsibilities. **The wives’ God-honoring and willing submission** is stained with strong desires to manipulate, to complain, compare, and justify insubordination.

“Commending Biblical truth involves more than saying, ‘Do it because the Bible says so.’ That sort of commendation may result in a kind of obedience that is so begrudging and so empty of delight and hearty affirmation that the Lord is *not* pleased with it at all. So there is a second task needed to winning people over to a vision of manhood and womanhood. Not only must there be thorough *exegesis* (*Bible interpretation*), there must also be a portrayal of the vision that satisfies the **heart as well as the head**. Or to put it another way, we must commend the **beauty as well as the truth**. We must show that something is not **only right but also good.**”

- Wife’s action v1-2 (Let your conduct out-speak your words.)
- Wife’s apparel v3 (Be modest in your outward appearance.)
- Wife’s attention v4 (Place your focus on pleasing God above all.)
- Wife’s attitude v5-6 (Trust God with His call to submission.)

1 Peter 3:7 *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.*

Husbands are to be a student of their wives. They are called to honor, protect, and help them. A husband is called by God to spiritually lead his wife.