

# 14 | 1 PETER 3:1-6

## A WIFE'S IMPERISHABLE BEAUTY

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## Announcements

### 1. Welcome Visitors!

If you have a wife or you are a wife, then this teaching is for you. But if you are not a wife, this teaching is for you too. Everybody say, "This message is for me!" Let's resist the temptation in any message to think – "This is for the person beside me." No. All the Word of God is for every child of God. This is for you. Next week we're talking about "A Faithful Husband" so don't worry men, your exhortation is coming.

My wife and I are planning on growing old together. She is beautiful. The world's beauty fades and is so ugly. How ugly it is that as we age many men will toss out their wives for some younger woman and abandon his vows to satisfy his own ego. That's not beauty, that's narcissism. True beauty is the countenance of a woman who fears the Lord.

So Jill and I are planning on turning into raisins together. We plan on displaying the imperishable beauty that we have in Christ to our children and our grandchildren, if the Lord will allow us.

God help us reject the idea of the world's beauty that requires a woman to put all her focus on her outward appearance. Paul says, "Though the outward man perish, the inward man is being renewed day by day." I want to grow old with my beautiful wife. She understands what true beauty is.

*Hear the Word of the Lord.* 1 Peter 3:1-6, "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." *This is God's Word.*

The book of 1 Peter is all about suffering. Why does Peter address marriage in this context? No matter how good your marriage, there are issues where you don't see things the same way. You take a man, and you take a woman, and you put them together, you're going to have differences, and you're going to have challenges and opportunity for suffering.

Peter is addressing a very painful situation in the churches – young ladies who are new believers, and they are married to unsaved husbands. What could be more difficult? In the very polytheistic Roman culture, it was expected that whatever gods the woman had would be forsaken upon marriage, and she would submit to worshipping the husband's gods. Can you imagine how painful it would be to live contrary to your husbands wishes?

It was for this reason Peter is telling the wives, be subject in everything else. Does your husband need to change? Yes. What's the best way to serve him? Submit to him with a gentle and quiet attitude.

Now Peter is not saying it's ok to be unequally yoked together in marriage. Believers must always marry other believers. But these women had come to know Christ after being married.

And as it is in our day, so it was in Peter's time, there were unsaved husbands who were ridiculing their Christian wives. It was a very painful thing. So what does Peter say you have to do? Suffer. Specifically he says, "Be subject. Be submissive. Come under God's authority. And coming under God's authority means coming under the authority of that mate and doing it with a spirit of meekness and a gentle, quiet spirit."

This is what Jesus did. He came into a hostile world with a gentle and meek spirit. Jesus says, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart" (Mt 11:28-29).

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## 1. THE IMPERISHABLE BEAUTY OF CHRIST (2:21; 3:1)

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We read about the imperishable beauty of the wife, but truly all are to seek this beauty, because it comes from Christ. The wife is not the only one who is to put on the beauty of a submissive spirit. Christ is submissive to the Father.

### THE BEAUTY OF CHRIST'S SUBMISSION

Peter says, "Likewise...be subject." Like who? The greatest example of submission is Christ. We read in **1 Peter 2:21**, "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps." We are called to submit and suffer, just like Christ.

He came to do the Father's will. He said, "I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me" (**Jn 6:38**). "Not my will, but yours be done."

Christians are to present themselves before a watching world as people who emulate Jesus. We are to pattern our lives on his example. For in doing so we present the world fresh and vibrant pictures of living hope.

### THE BEAUTY OF SUBMISSION IN ALL REALMS

Peter says, "Likewise...be subject." The idea is that everyone in society is to be submissive. Human society should be like an orchestra, everyone giving way to everyone else. Because of the fall, there is great disharmony, but God created humanity to be first and foremost in submission to him. We are all to fall in line with authorities in our lives and be accountable. Peter says if you got into debt and you needed to become a **slave**, then you were to submit to your master. We are to "be subject" to the **governing authorities**. Children are to submit to their parents. Church members are to be subject to the elders. All are first and foremost to be subject to God.

## SUBMITTED TO GOD'S WORD

Let me say first of all that this is God's Word. I want to ask you this morning, do you believe God's Word? Do you accept it? Do you receive it as authoritative over your life. Before we can talk about submission in the home, we need to talk about submission to the Bible.

This passage addresses married women and married men. Wife, do you receive this as God's Word? Husband do you receive it as straight from Jesus? Our society is wayward. This teaching is abhorred and mocked in our society, but it ought to be celebrated in the congregations of Jesus.

If we live according to this passage, we are planting seeds of peace for marriage. And singles, you need to receive this passage as well. We all came from a family. We all need to know how the home should operate. This passage is for all of us here today. You don't have to be married to appreciate the truth of this passage. At the very least, all of us need to pray for the married people they might live according to the Word of the Lord.

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## 2. THE WIFE'S IMPERISHABLE BEAUTY DESCRIBED (3:1-2)

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This text tells us that all wives have the power to change bring transformation to their husbands. The text is clear that Peter's words apply **to all Christian wives**, not just those who are married to unbelieving husbands, for the text says, "even if some do not obey the word." So the emphasis is that this text is intended for all Christian wives.

### IMPERISHABLE BEAUTY IS POWERFUL

Imperishable beauty is powerful. The sweet and godly character of a woman can transform a man. Yes men need to change, and there is something so powerful that most married women have difficulty tapping into. Peter says something that I find surprising. He says to the ladies, if you have a husband that needs a radical transformation in his life, stay quiet! This is extremely difficult because a woman has a deep desire to communicate with her husband. That's a good thing. But Peter says if you want to win your husband, he must be won "without a word by the conduct" of your life (**3:1**).

**Augustine's Father Saved.** In the year A.D. 397 an aging saint in the Christian faith wrote what would become one of the most compelling autobiographies ever published. When the book was finally finished, he titled his own tale *The Confessions of Saint Augustine*. Buried in this celebrated narrative is the moving tribute Augustine gave his mother, Monica, on the influence she had in bringing her unbelieving husband, Patricius, to personal faith in Jesus. Augustine described his mother's role with these words:

"She served her husband as her master, and did all she could to win him for You, speaking to him of You by her conduct, by which You made her beautiful.... Finally, when her husband was at the end of his earthly span, she gained him for You."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> David R. Helm, *1 & 2 Peter and Jude: Sharing Christ's Sufferings*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008), 101, in Augustine's Confessions.

## SUBMISSION TO YOUR OWN HUSBAND

Now you are not to be subject to all men, but **“to your own husbands.”** The goal is that those who **“do not obey the word...may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives.”** It doesn't mean the unsaved husband will definitely come to Christ in this manner, but if there is any hope of him hearing the message, he must first “be won without a word” by the wife's submissive conduct.

## SUBMISSION IS DEFINED BY THE BIBLE

“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” (3:1).

Peter is laying out the proper order of the home. Submit means to **yield to another**. There is a command to **“be subject.”** We know what this means. You come to a four-way stop at the same time as another car, and you yield to that car. Or even better, in traffic when you see the “merge” sign, you know that someone has to go first and someone has to go behind. Too often the I'm-going-to-go first battle causes frustration. Everyone knows that soon or later there is only going to be room for a single file of cars. That's what this means. Wives need to allow their husbands to lead. Can we all agree on that?

*“Well, what if my husband isn't following Christ?”* That's exactly what Peter is talking about. Especially if your husband is not following Christ, you need to show him Christ by a life submitted to Christ and to your husband.

## WHAT SUBMISSION DOES NOT MEAN

### *Submission Clarified*

Submission has nothing to do with **equality**. The Son is not pouting around heaven going, “Why can't I be the Father?” The Son is in submission to the Father and the Spirit to the Father and the Son. Yet Scripture teaches they are equal. Headship has nothing to do with equality. Men and women are equal under God in every way.

Submission also has nothing to do with **worth**. I love Proverbs 31:10, “Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.” It's not about gifts. In certain areas, my wife has gifts that far exceed mine. It's about God's design for the order in the home. Changed women help God change husbands by being submissive to their own husband.

### *What Submission Does Not Mean*

There are a few qualifications that we need to add about submission. Christian women, regardless of their marital status, have too often been subjected to degrading explanations and abusive applications from this very text.

Given the pain that can be evoked by this text, I want to say a few things about what Peter's call to submission does *not* mean for Christian wives.

- It does **not** mean that if your husband asks you to **abandon your faith** in Christ, you should do so.
- It does **not** mean that if your husband asks you to **sin**, you should do so.
- It does **not** mean that you must **always agree** with him and never present a differing view.
- It does **not** mean that if he is **unfaithful** to you, you are left without Biblical recourse.

- It does **not** mean that if he **abuses you physically** or **abandons** you through incessant verbal humiliation, you must remain quietly in the home and accept the daily cruelty of that relationship at all costs.

In other words no wife should allow their husband to use this text for sin or abuse of any kind. If your husband is abusing you or your children, you should call the police.

- It also does not mean that the woman has no voice in the marriage. Wives naturally want to **communicate** with their husbands – sometimes with anger and fierceness. That's not right. “**Well if I have to submit, then he can do whatever he wants.**” That's not true. Look at **1 Peter 3:7**. Your husband is to be **understanding** and considerate. He is to consider you in all of his decisions that affect you. It is right that a man should consult with his wife and consider her. That means he can't boss you around. He has to ask you before making decisions that affect you. That's the law of love. He's to be “considerate.”

### HUSBANDS NEED TO CHANGE

Intrinsic to this text is that husbands need to change. We all need to change. If you have a saved husband ladies, he needs to change. If you have a lost husband, he needs to be converted. God tells us they proper and effective way to change your husband is through submission. He describes this submissive spirit as: “**respectful and pure conduct**” (3:2). The focus is not mainly to be on **outward** fashion (3:3) but on the **inward adorning** of the heart. “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.**””

Husbands need to be changed and their wives know it. Peter says, “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” (3:1). This passage is primarily dealing with unsaved husbands. But can we all agree that all married men need to change. No one knows it better than our wives.

#### ***The Preoccupied Husband***

Maybe you're a **preoccupied** husband. You're home physically, but your mind is always some place else. You come home from work, but you bring work with you. Or maybe you are just preoccupied with something else – your phone, the newspaper, your thoughts. You are home but you are not home. Have you ever had one of those conversations with your wife She's talking and this is important to her. But she get's the sense that the husband is zoned out. And the wife says, “Well don't you agree?” And he says, “Huh?” And she says, “Well you know, do you agree with what I've just said?” And he says, “Oh absolutely!” So she says, “Well, what did I just say?” And he knows it. He's busted. He says, “I don't know exactly, but I agree with it whatever it was.” Husbands need to change wouldn't you agree? When husbands are there at home, it's important to be all there. Men can get so focused on one thing that he's able to block everything (and everyone else) out. **Did you know the average man in America has an average of four minutes of meaningful conversation with his wife each day?** Some of you

ladies are thinking, "I dream of four minutes!" But those of you who are mature in Christ know that a godly husband shepherds his wife.

### ***The Hobby Husband***

Then there is the ***hobby*** husband. He works all week but doesn't care about his job. He works just so he can do what he really wants to do, which is drive cars or play video games or build stuff in the garage. And he's so consumed with that at the expense of what is really important. His family secretly hates dad's hobbies because it's robbing them of a husband and a father. And yet there are some immature men in the church that love worthless things more than their family.

### ***The Angry Husband***

What about the ***angry*** husband? Be careful he could go off at any moment. The whole family is walking on eggshells. We don't know when it's going to happen. But it will happen eventually. Everyone is so afraid of the next blow up.

### ***The Neglectful Husband***

What about the ***neglectful*** husband? Work, sports, friends. He even has some mystery time. Little contact with his family. He's made his wife a work widow or a sports widow. He has time for his friends, but he's rather escape somewhere else than deal with a real living family who needs his love and leadership.

### ***The Dangerous Husband***

Then there is the dangerous husband. Where's my husband tonight? We don't know exactly. We don't know where he is or when he's coming back. He seems to have work appointments and trips at the strangest times. He's not transparent. He's hiding something. Twenty-two percent of men admit to committing adultery during their marriage. Twenty-nine percent of women report they've been physically abused by their husbands. Thirty-five percent report emotional abuse. And yet I've seen God through the years change even the dangerous and unfaithful husband into a faithful husband through a faithful, gentle wife.

### ***All Husbands Need Christ***

Husbands, if we asked your wife if you need to change I'm sure she'd say "Give me a pen." These are the things that need to change in our marriage, with our children, with your walk with God. Men, we need to change, and our wives are well aware of it.

## **THE WIFE'S INCLINATION IS TO CHANGE HER HUSBAND**

### ***Stay Quiet***

The point is all husbands need Christ, and the Christian wives know it. She desperately wants to change her husband. And there is a time for communication, don't get me wrong. But the first thing a wife must do is to let God change her. The husband needs to see Christ lived out before him. You let God change you, and you need to trust God to change your husband.

The context of 1 Peter 3 is that they're were wives that were likely new Christians. They wanted to see their husbands change, and their solution was to talk to them. Talk, talk,

talk. That's noble. You want to be clear. But Peter says something very surprising. "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" (3:1). Even if your husband has the greatest, most important need for change in his life: the salvation of his soul, wives should approach them "without a word" win them "by the conduct" of their lifestyle and choices and attitudes.

### ***The Natural Fleshly Inclination of a Wife***

The natural inclination of a wife, her predisposition is to bring the need for change to the forefront by verbal communication. But God says through Peter what she needs is to win him "without a word" by "her conduct." She's to have a gentle and quiet spirit. God says, "Be still and know that I am God" (**Psa 46:10**).

How can you as a wife produce the desired change your husband needs? Ladies – your natural inclination to may be the very thing that kills the change you desire. We need to consult what God's word says from 1 Peter 3 – you need a **gentle** and **quiet** spirit. And the whole of Scripture agrees with Peter. **Proverbs 14:1**, "A wise woman builds her home, but a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands." A woman who follows her natural inclination instead of the Word of God is a foolish woman who instead of building her house up, she does the exact opposite: she tears it down.

**Proverbs 25:24**, "It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife." When a woman sees something in her husband that needs to change, she wants to communicate about it, and it often leads to **quarrels**.

Peter says that's not the way to change your husband. The wife is inclined to give a speech, to point out what needs to change. If necessary, she's willing to give that speech repeatedly. She's very willing to remind him every day if that's what it takes. She's thinking the problem is somehow he **forgot**. However *that is not the problem*. God's way to change a husband is found here in **1 Peter 3:1**, "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" (3:1).

God's wants your husband to change. If he needs the most supernatural change in his life, that of being born again by the Word of God and the touch of God, then the way to go about that change is not primarily verbal communication. It's by your character and your conduct and your gentle and quiet spirit.

### **THE WIFE'S POWERFUL TOOL OF CHANGE IS HER CONDUCT**

Peter describes this woman of imperishable beauty one with: "respectful and pure conduct" (3:2).

### ***The Transformed Woman is Respectful***

The changed woman is respectful in her conduct. The word respectful means "Fear, reverence, respect, or honor."<sup>2</sup> That means she puts his needs over her needs. Now it's interesting that the husband is commanded to do the same thing in Ephesians 5:25, "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." Love and

<sup>2</sup> Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

respect have the same outcome: you put your spouse's needs above your own. The husband is to lead in this. But married ladies, you are called to respect the leadership of your husband. He is often going to make mistakes, but he is going to give an account for his leadership in your marriage, rather than you. You are not the leader. That doesn't mean you have no say in the marriage.

The Bible says that the wife is a "helper fit" for her husband (Gen 2). The husband leads, but you help guide him with your wisdom and your intuition and your gifts. You are called to be the biggest influencer of your husband. Respect and submission does not mean that you are silent when it comes to matters of your home.

### ***The Transformed Woman is Pure***

The changed woman is pure in her conduct. Your husband is going to be impacted when he observes "when they see your respectful and pure conduct" (3:2). This describes the effect of what you do in the kitchen, the car, the backyard, and in the bedroom—every activity in every place. Pure means holy, righteous, or chaste. Pure means having godly responses to conflict, being pure in your dress, your language, your choices of entertainment and being righteous in decisions. It means you are sincere and not manipulative. You are without guile. Pure does not mean self-righteous or judgmental; not uppity or prudish—just pure. A wife's purity is a powerful tool God uses for change in the life of her husband.

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## **3. THE WIFE'S IMPERISHABLE BEAUTY ADORNED (3:3-4)**

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Peter says, don't be so worried about outward fashions but inner, imperishable beauty.

### **OUTWARD MODESTY**

So, what does this living hope and soul-winning conduct look like in Christian wives? Peter begins his answer by way of contrast. "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" (3:3-4).

Peter's culture, like our own, had an obsession with external adornment. Women were under enormous pressure to look beautiful. They were fixated on their hair, the wearing of jewelry, and clothing. In response, Peter wants Christian women not to be overly concerned about external beauty.

***Amelia Bedelia.*** Only the famed children's book character Amelia Bedelia could misunderstand the meaning of this verse. Amelia took everything she was told to do literally—in a wooden way. So she would put real sponges in the sponge cake she was baking or pitch a tent by throwing it into the woods. An Amelia Bedelia interpretation of this verse would leave women without *any* braiding of hair, wearing of jewelry, or wearing of clothing. Peter is not advocating any such thing. His concern is one of emphasis, as any discerning reader will understand. It's fine to dress appropriately, but your emphasis ought not be on outward fashion, but on inward beauty.

“Charm is deceitful, and beauty is fading, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised” (Pro 31:30). Christian ladies need to put the emphasis on the imperishable beauty of the heart.

The pressures placed on Christian women by today's culture are nothing short of oppressive. Women today can't walk into a store without being bombarded with shelves devoted to hair products. They can't walk down the street without being overwhelmed by the need for more jewelry. Women cannot open a magazine without being assaulted by the sense that their own closets are threadbare of anything worth wearing.

## **INWARD ADORNING**

What does that inward adorning look like?

### ***The Transformed Woman has Hidden Beauty***

Verse 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” (3:3-4).

There is a modesty to a godly woman's spirit where she doesn't have to say everything that impulsively comes to her mind. The godly woman has a “gentle and quiet spirit.”

This is the kind of inward adornment you need as a wife for your spirit – a spirit that is **respectful, pure, gentle** and **quiet**. This is the beauty that never fades. This is the fashion that never perishes.

Clothes cost money. Spend more time and resources on your inner beauty than your outward beauty. Ladies, do you want to know how to do that?

### ***The Transformed Woman has a Gentle, Quiet Spirit***

Peter says is, “Be subject. Be submissive. Come under God's authority. And coming under God's authority means coming under the authority of that mate and doing it with a spirit of meekness and a gentle, quiet spirit.”

Well, **what's a gentle, quiet spirit?** It's a spirit that trusts God. It trusts that God is bigger, God is greater, God is more real, God is in control. “The king's heart is in the Lord's hand.” (Pro. 21:1) Your husband is not the ultimate king of the universe, even if he thinks he is. And neither are you.

Peter says, “Be subject to the Lord,” and then, because you're subject to the Lord, you can be subject to your mate. And you can do it with a spirit of meekness—that is, you're not mouthing back, you're not returning to him his way of talking or dealing with situations.

## **GOD CALLS IMPERISHABLE BEAUTY PRECIOUS**

Verse 4, “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**” (3:4). This is what he gave his Son for. Not only is this beauty valuable and attractive to your husband, but it is precious to God. It demonstrates the beauty of Christ in you through regeneration. It's precious because it costs you much. It takes much self control. But it cost God more than it cost you. It cost him his own dear son.

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## 4. THE WIFE'S IMPERISHABLE BEAUTY EXEMPLIFIED (3:5-6)

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Peter doesn't stop at simply giving women instruction and motivation. He goes on in this text to provide an illustration, an example, for every woman to follow.

**3:5-6**, “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.”

### THE HOLY WOMEN

Peter says when we think of submission, we should think of the holy women of old. It takes courage to be submissive. They trusted God, not mainly their husbands. Think of Rahab and Ruth and Hannah. Think of even Bathsheba. These were strong women who had to trust God. But God calls our attention to one particular woman: Sarah

### SARAH CALLED ABRAHAM LORD

When Peter went looking for a woman whose life modeled good works, he chose Sarah, the wife of Abraham. When he wanted to put forward someone with “a gentle and quiet spirit,” he selected Sarah. And we can all thank Peter for doing so. After all, Sarah wasn't a wallflower woman. Sarah wasn't weak. She was real. And the Scriptures portray her faith and life as precious and beautiful.

Sarah is the perfect choice. When Christian women hear preachers call upon them to put on “a gentle and quiet spirit,” the culture will bombard their minds in an effort to convince them that God's Word is asking them to be weak. Our culture is constantly trying to make women think that applying this principle will in the end be a setback to women everywhere. But Peter says, “No. No. No. Look at Sarah!” Sarah was a woman who got into her husband's face a time or two—and he needed it a time or three more.

Remember Sarah is called to follow her husband out of Ur of the Chaldees. He was to literally leave the area of what would later be Babylon and Iraq and go to the Promised Land. Sarah followed, but remember how they got to the Promised Land and there was no land flowing with milk and honey. There was a drought. There was a famine. So Abraham led the way. He went all the way to Egypt. He didn't lead in a godly way. He lied and gave Sarah over to Pharaoh's harem.

But God protected Sarah. Sarah trusted God, and God protected Sarah. He gave Pharaoh a dream and inflicted pain on Pharaoh for almost harming Sarah. They came out of Egypt with great riches. God blessed Abraham and Sarah not because of Abraham's great leadership but in some ways because of Sarah's great faith.

### TO BE SUBMISSIVE YOU MUST BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

Submission is a scary thing. Is says the women of the Old Testament had this inner beauty of submission and specifically names Sarah. Submission was a beautiful thing to them, but it wasn't easy. In fact it was a scary thing. That's what 1 Peter 3:6 says, “you are her [Sarah's] children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.”

Married ladies you are submit to your husband in everything unless he is asking you to sin. So if he's abusive – that's not only sinful, it's illegal and you should call the police. If he tells you not to go to church, that's sinful. You are commanded by a higher authority to “not forsake the assembling of yourselves together” (Heb 10). So submission never means you are to take abuse or you are to carry out the sinful desires of your husband, whatever they are.

You are to be courageous and “do not fear anything that is frightening.” We wrestle not against flesh and blood. Stand strong in Christ ladies. Be courageous!

### **Conclusion**

The imperishable beauty of a woman is something that does not fade. The beauty that a godly man looks for is inward. Look at her character. Look at her countenance. She's beautiful. God help us to shed the thoughts of the world where a woman feels worthlessness as she gets older in her life – so attached to the world's version of what beauty is. God help us to take out our minds and wash them in the Word so that we can embrace and encourage and exhort the girls and ladies at Living Hope to have an imperishable beauty in Christ that never fades!

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SOLI DEO GLORIA

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