

Responding to Grace: Wives and Husbands

1 Peter 3:1-7

Wives

mandate

masquerade

model

Husbands

Command

Consequences

Wives

Mandate

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,

Likewise (homoiōs): in the same way

Be subject (hypotassō): to subjugate; place in submission

Submission does not imply any moral, intellectual, or spiritual inferiority in the family, workplace, or society in general. But it is God's design for roles necessary to mankind's well-being.

MacArthur, John F., Jr. 2004. [1 Peter](#). MacArthur New Testament Commentary. Chicago: Moody Publishers.

To your own Husband

Ephesians 5:22-24 Wives, submit to your own husbands, **as to the Lord**.²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives **should submit in everything to their husbands**.

Genesis 3:16 To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. **Your desire shall be contrary to your husband**, but he shall rule over you."

Submission is to always to be done unto the Lord.

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, **as to the Lord**.

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,

2 Corinthians 6:14–18 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, ¹⁸and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

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**,

Conduct (anastrophe): manner of living; to conduct oneself, with apparent focus upon overt daily behavior.

1 Peter 3:1–2 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**.

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So the good conduct of the believer is missional or pre-evangelistic. A good life silences accusers.

Dorani, Daniel M. 2014. [1 Peter](#). Edited by Richard D. Phillips, Philip Graham Ryken, and Daniel M. Dorani. Reformed Expository Commentary. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing.

Masquerade

1 Peter 3:3 **Do not let your adorning be external**—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—

Adorning (kosmos): world; universe

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1 Peter 3:3–4 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— ⁴but 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.

1 Timothy 2:9–10 likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

We should long to please God more than to gain applause or admiring glances. We should pursue God’s favor more than human favor, since his appraisal is more accurate, generous, and gracious.

Doriani, Daniel M. 2014. [1 Peter](#). Edited by Richard D. Phillips, Philip Graham Ryken, and Daniel M. Doriani. Reformed Expository Commentary. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing.

1 Peter 3:4 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.

Model

1 Peter 3:5–6 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, ⁶as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

1 Peter 3:5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands,

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 3:5–6 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, ⁶as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

Husbands

1 Peter 3:7 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.

Command

1 Peter 3:7 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.

Live with (synoikēo): dwell together

In an understanding way (gnosis): practical knowledge; discretion, prudence.

Understanding speaks of being sensitive and considering the wife's deepest physical and emotional needs.

MacArthur, John F., Jr. 2004. [1 Peter](#). MacArthur New Testament Commentary. Chicago: Moody Publishers.

Ephesians 5:25–28 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Husbands, then, should live together with wives informed by the knowledge of God's will, of what he demands them to do.

Schreiner, Thomas R. 2003. [1, 2 Peter, Jude](#). Vol. 37. The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

1 Peter 3:7 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.

Showing (aponemō): assign; pay; impart

honor (timē): precious

weaker (asthenēs): without strength

1 Peter 3:7 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.

Consequences

1 Peter 3:7 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**.

1 Corinthians 7:12–15 To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. ¹³ If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. ¹⁵ But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace.