

“Believing Wife, Unbelieving Husband”

1 Peter 3:1-6

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction:

- Experience in a cross-cultural situation in Ghana, West Africa
- Every culture has a “household code”—rules that govern relationship within society and within the home.
- Greco-Roman culture clearly patriarchal
- New “household code” for the community of believers. Ephesian 5, Colossians 3; 1 Peter 2:18-3:7
- What happens when two cultures collide?

“Believing Wife, Unbelieving Husband”

A. Living with an non-abusive, non-Christian husband!

1. General Observations
 - a. Christ elevates women to be spiritual equals with men. Galatians 3:26-28
 - b. Specifics left between husband and wife to work out.
2. Specific Responsibilities
 - a. To stay with her unbelieving husband—1 Corinthians 7
 - b. To submit to her unbelieving husband
 - 1) Effective evangelistic tool—life-style evangelism
 - 2) Ways to enhance ones’ testimony for Christ
 - a) Concentrate on your behavior. 3:1-2
 - (1) “Won without a word”
 - (2) No guarantee—1 Corinthians 7:16
 - b) Keep Physical Appearance in perspective—3:3
 - (1) Proper worship apparel—1 Timothy 2:9-10
 - (2) Practical level—not to attract men
 - c) Develop the “inner self”, the real “you” 3:4
 - (1) Two Specific Qualities
 - (a) “gentle”—“mild, meek”
 - (b) “quiet”—“tranquility from within”
 - (2) Importance—“precious to God”
 - d) Focus Your Attention on Your husband—3:5-6

B. Staying with an abusive, non-Christian Husband?

1. Is staying in an abusive marriage an appropriate application?
2. Abuse is not about submission, but about power
3. Counsel for the Abused
 - a. Wife not responsible for the husband’s behavior.
 - b. Submission has God-imposed limitations
 - c. Physical separation may be necessary—1 Corinthians 7:5