

Christian Conduct as Wives and Husbands

1 Peter 3:1-7

PART TWO

Introduction

- I. **Submission is an *Obligation*** (v1a)
- II. **Submission is an *Opportunity*** (1b-2)
- III. **Submission is an *Ornamentation*** (vv. 3-6)

“Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair, the wearing of gold, or the putting on of clothing—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. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening” (vv. 3-6).

As the Bride of the LORD, Israel forsakes her Husband – God: Jeremiah 2

“The word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem,’ “Thus says the Lord, I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. Israel was holy to the Lord, the firstfruits of his harvest”” (Jeremiah 2:1-3)

“I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride” (v2b).

God wants more than our willingness to obey Him. He wants our *hearts*.

God wants our *love* first and foremost.

"I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent” (Revelation 2:2-5).

If God has our highest love, above everything here on earth, all that He requires will automatically follow.

“how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown” (v2c).

***Legalists* only require strict obedience. *Love* willingly and joyfully follows its object.**

“And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried” (Ruth 1:16-17; KJV).

A godly husband wants his bride to show her love and respect for him by willingly *following* him.

Following him *“in the wilderness”* requires commitment, perseverance, and dedication.

Following him *“in a land not sown”* requires trust, respect, and confidence.

All of which flow from the same place—*love*.

Do you see how our battle in marriage is not over rote obedience? Our struggle is over the issue of *love*.

“Israel was holy to the Lord” (Jeremiah 2:3).

Hence, Peter’s exhortation to wives that their unbelieving husbands *“may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct”* (v2).

In Jeremiah 2 God is seeking a divorce. Why?

Because Israel has turned away from God.

God did not abandon His people, they departed from Him.

“Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit” (Jeremiah 2:11).

“And when the men of Ashdod saw how things were, they said, ‘The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for his hand is hard against us and against Dagon our god’” (1 Samuel 5:7). So they shipped the ark off to Gath.

“Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water” (Jeremiah 2:12-13).

“Have you not brought this upon yourself by forsaking the Lord your God, when he led you in the way?” (Jeremiah 2:17).

“Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number” (Jeremiah 2:32).

God alone is the beauty of the soul.

The husband is called upon to facilitate the enhancing of her inner ornamentation.

“and do not fear anything that is frightening” (6b).

“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” (v7).

“Likewise/in the same way husbands” (v7a)

Husband and wife are called to submit to the Lord. Both are called to follow Jesus the Suffering Servant.

“live with your wives in an understanding way” (v7b).

Husbands submit to serving the needs of their wives. We subordinate our desires to meet their needs.

1. **Passion for your wife.** Love her. Be close to her. Be affectionate with her. Be intimate with her.
2. **Protect your wife.** God protects His bride, even to the point of giving His life. Protect her from all harm.
3. **Provide for your wife.** God provides for His bride by bringing her into a land of plenty. Nourish her.

“But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Timothy 5:8).

“showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel” (7c).

We cannot love what we do not honor or respect.

Love that was founded on youth and physical attractiveness fades when youth does.

Husbands, this is not something you need to just start *doing*. It is something you need to address by *being*.

“since they are heirs with you of the grace of life” (v7d).

If both husband and wife truly live at peace with God they will be at peace with each other.

She needs your companionship. She needs your friendship. She needs close communion with you.

“so that your prayers may not be hindered” (v7e).

Whatever hinders a man and his wife from praying together must be dealt with swiftly and mercilessly.

7 Questions to ask yourselves in marriage:

1. Do we focus more on external temporal things than we do internal, eternal things?
2. How well do we know each other, *really*?
3. Do we communicate well with each other in a way that brings mutual understanding?
4. Are we helping each other grow spiritually to look more like Jesus?
5. Do we regularly spend time in prayer together?
6. Are we intimately and physically affectionate with each other?
7. Are we truly happy and content in our marriage?