

# Do Not Be Surprised at the Fiery Ordeal Among You

## An Expositional Journey Through 1Peter

### 1Peter 3:1-7

#### 30- The Power and Glory of a Wife's Submission- Part 2

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August 26, 2018

#### 1 Peter 3:1-7

**1** In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

**2** as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

**3** Your adornment must not be *merely* external — braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;

**4** but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

**5** For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;

**6** just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

**7** You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

To the Glory of God

Three of the biggest *misconceptions* about “Biblical Submission” is that it is:

1. Hard
2. An Endless Struggle
3. A “One-Way Street”

But let me start with the *last* one, because I think that the last one, the *misconception* that Biblical Submission is a "One-Way Street", is the main cause of the other two. You see, almost *universally*, when the subject of "Submission" comes up, it is normally discussed only in the context of "Women being in submission to Men", in general, or more specifically, of "Wives being in submission to the authority of their Husbands". Which lends itself to a *carnal* and *sinful*, and utterly *unbiblical* foundation that Men are somehow *superior* to Women, and that Women are *inferior* to Men.

But it is very important that we know that the Bible doesn't teach that. Neither Moses nor Jesus taught that, the Apostles didn't teach that, and I'm not teaching that. But, as we clarify *that* misconception, we must then also *emphasize* that Men and Women are *not* the "same". They are *not* "equal" now, they have *never* been "equal", and they will never be "equal". God very *wisely* and *powerfully* made them *uniquely* "Male" and "Female", on purpose. And based on God sovereignly doing that, there are certain Roles in this Life, and on this planet, that only Men can fill, and there are other Roles in this Life, and on this earth, that only Women can fill.

As I told you last time, the Roles of "Son", "Brother", "Husband", and "Father" (along with other *extended* Roles like "Son-in-law"; "Grandfather", and "Uncle", etc.) *cannot* be filled by Women. They are *unique* to Men. And when Men *refuse* to fill those unique Roles, or when Women try to, *everybody* pays a terrible price.

Conversely, the Roles of "Daughter", "Sister", "Wife", and "Mother" (along with "Daughter-in-law", "Grandmother", and "Aunt", etc.) *cannot* be filled by Men. They are *unique* to Women. And each of these Roles are vitally important to the success of Humanity and the Will of God in the earth. Which is *why* there is much written in God's Word as to just *how* Men and Women are to *submit* themselves to these Roles, to God's Glory and the Good of people.

And that is *why* Fathers in the Home, and Leaders in the Church of Jesus should be faithful to *teach* these unique differences, based in the unarguable fact that God chose to make them either "Male" or "Female" at conception. And we should strive to *maintain* these distinctions and to *celebrate* them, rather than allow people to "chart their own course", or seek to *minimize*, *ignore*, or even *abolish* them.

We must understand that the unique sex-based Roles that are *clearly and repeatedly* discussed (in great detail) all throughout the 66 Books of the Holy Bible- are *not* the result of a "lack of education or reflective of a backward, uncivilized society of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century". These repeated Teachings and Commands that delineate very different and precise Roles that Men and Women are to fill in this life- are the results of God the Holy Spirit "moving along" men, who wrote down infallible and inerrant Words. Therefore, they are both the Word and the Will of the Owner and Creator of the Universe.

So, *teaching and maintaining and celebrating* these "sex-based distinctions" are *not* "outdated customs of long dead people that need to be ignored or overcome"; they are eternal Truths that *all* people need to struggle to obey and enjoy.

So, the Goal of God with Men and Women in the earth is *not* that they reach some *imagined or artificial or manufactured* "Equality", but that Men struggle against the lusts of their flesh, by the indwelling Power of the Holy Spirit, to be *humbly and joyfully* "submitted" to what the Authority of Scripture commands from them as Men, in their daily lives, all to the Glory of God. And God's Goal for Women is that they struggle against the lusts of *their* flesh, by the indwelling Power of the Holy Spirit, to be found *humbly and joyfully* "submitted" to what the Authority of Scripture commands from them as Women, in their daily lives, all to the Glory of God.

So, the operative Word in all of Biblical Christianity is "Submission". And it *begins* with Jesus Christ. And then this Submission *extends* to all those who "name His Name" and seek to bring Him Glory. For example, 1,000 years before Jesus was born, God the Holy Spirit "moved along" the most beloved King in Israel's history, King David, and he wrote this in **Psalm 8**:

**O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens! From the mouth of infants and nursing babes You have established strength Because of Your adversaries, To make the enemy and the revengeful cease. When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,**

... then, ten Centuries later, the very *same* Holy Spirit “moved along” a Jewish Pharisee, who had mercifully experienced the miracle of the New Birth, Saul of Tarsus, and he was granted the Ability to correctly *interpret* what David had written, and put it into a correct context concerning the promised Messiah. And so, Paul wrote this in **1 Corinthians 15:27&28:**

**For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.**

...so, Paul taught that God the Father put all things “under subjection” (Submission) to God the Son. And then, at the end of the Age, God the Son Himself will be “subjected” to God the Father for one very powerful Reason:

**... so that God may be all in all.**

So, that *misconception*, the notion, that God is *mainly* concerned that Wives are submissive to their Husbands is precisely *why* so many think of Submission as being “hard” and an “endless struggle”.

So, let's begin with this: Is Submission biblical? Yes. But, it isn't simply *mentioned* in the Bible. Submission is a “prime” and very “vital” concept in Christianity, so much so, that *without* Submission you really don't have Christianity.

**To Submit:** To yield to the Power or Authority of another

**To be Submissive:** Inclined or ready to yield to the Power and Authority of another; Humbly Obedient<sup>1</sup>

... and God the Holy Spirit “moved along” every single writer of the New Testament to say that *all* believers are to be “submissive” to God and to His Word. And this “Submission” to God and to God's Word is *absolute*. There is *never* a reason for *anyone*, who lays claim to belong to Jesus, to

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<sup>1</sup> Dictionary.com

think that he is somehow *exempt* from submission to God and to God's Word. And that is why those, who have experienced the miracle of the New Birth, are not simply told to "believe" what the Bible says. We are absolutely supposed to believe what the Bible says. But, *in addition* to believing that the Bible is "true", we must also understand that the "Product of God the Spirit", the inspired, inerrant, infallible, Word of the living God has "*absolute Authority*" over us.

Dear friends, we need to remember that we are the living heirs of the Protestant Reformation. And as such, we have a duty and a joy to learn and study and understand what was at stake among the Reformers. And one of the most important issues 500 years ago, was:

Who has "Final Authority" in the Church among the saved?

Who has the right to "bind the conscience" of the individual believers? Who speaks, *authoritatively* and *infallibly*, on God's behalf? The Roman religious system teaches that the "Pope", in his Office as the "vicar of Christ"<sup>2</sup>, when he sits on the "throne of St. Peter", and speaks about matters of faith or morals, he is speaking "*ex-cathedra*" (Latin- "*from the Throne*"), and what he says is "Infallible", meaning it is God Himself speaking, and *does not* contain any error (because it *cannot*).<sup>3</sup>

The Reformers said, "*Not so!*" It is the Scriptures, rightly and fully interpreted, that "**ALONE**" (Latin- "*sola*"), speak on God's behalf, and that, "**ALONE**", are infallible. This Issue was called "The Formal Cause of the Reformation", and was summarized by the Latin phrase, "*Sola Scriptura*", *from the Scriptures ALONE*.

And make no mistake about it, this Issue (along with several others) is what divides Protestants from Catholics to this day. So, we are *not* divided over personalities or petty things that don't matter. Protestants and Catholics are divided because we don't agree on "who" (or what) has "Final Authority", and we don't agree with how lost people

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<sup>2</sup> Originally, the title, "Vicar of Christ" [Latin, *Vicarius Christi*] simply meant, "Representative of Christ". But through the centuries, this Title has taken on a life of its own and now refers to the Pope being, "the earthly visible, manifestation of Jesus Christ"

<sup>3</sup> The Doctrine of "Papal Infallibility"; Papal infallibility is a dogma of the Catholic Church that states that, in virtue of the promise of Jesus to Peter, the Pope is preserved from the possibility of error "when, in the exercise of his office as shepherd and teacher of all Christians, in virtue of his supreme apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine concerning faith or morals to be held by the whole Church." This doctrine was defined dogmatically at the First Ecumenical Council of the Vatican of 1869–1870 in the document, "*Pastor aeternus*", but had been defended before that, existing already in medieval theology and being the majority opinion at the time of the Counter-Reformation.

are saved (“*Sola Fide*”, by faith ALONE). And I would suggest that *these* are very serious and deep Issues that have eternal ramifications, because one of us is wrong. One of us, either Protestants or Catholics, is preaching and teaching God’s Truth, and the other one is preaching and teaching man-made and false doctrine.

But what is so distressing to me is how many people, who lay claim to be Protestants, who are the heirs of these hard-fought battles, seem to take the Bible and what it says so cavalierly. For example, far too many people in mainline Protestant churches will stand up on Sunday and testify that they believe the Bible to be God’s Word, but then they will live all during the week as though they either don’t know what the Bible says, or don’t care.

But you can’t have it both ways. The Holy Bible is either the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of the living God, or it isn’t. And, if it *isn’t*, then we don’t need to waste another second reading or studying or obeying it, *at all*. Why should we struggle to be submissive to *any* part of the Bible if *all* of the Bible isn’t true? But, if the Bible is true, then no human knows what God has said unless he understands the Bible. And, if the Bible is God’s Word, then no one has the right to say, “*I just disagree with Scripture*”, or “*I don’t think I have to always obey what the Bible says*”, and still be in right standing with God.

The Bible (properly and fully understood) is the Will and the Word of God, and *cannot* be trifled with. So, every genuine believer has been told, by every single writer of sacred Text, in several different ways, to struggle, against the lusts of our flesh, by the Power of the Holy Spirit, to be found humbly and joyfully submitted to the Authority of the Holy Bible, in our daily lives, all to the Glory of God. And *that* is “Submission”. So, *everyone*, both Men and Women, are to be submissive.

And *part* of doing that is to, first, *understand*, and then, *obey* what Peter tells *all* believers, and then believing slaves, to submit to in Chapter 2, and now, here in Chapter 3, what he *infallibly* tells Wives to submit to:

***... you wives, be submissive to your own husbands ...***

So, whereas, many today want to *minimize* or *set aside*, or even outright *ignore* the concept of “Wives being submissive to their

Husbands" as being "outdated", or something that has somehow been made to be *irrelevant* through education or the evolution of the culture, let me begin this morning with *re-stating* the obvious:

Individuals, Human Institutions, Government, Education, or the larger Culture around us, do not have the right or the power to override infallible Scripture.

Therefore, *whatever* Almighty God has deemed to be useful and important to the Human Race, *that* is what we should *emphasize*, and *that* is what we should *teach* and *learn* and strive to obey, *not* what somebody or some creation of Man has determined to be important. And the Owner and Creator of the Universe has deemed that "Wives being submissive to their Husbands" is a real big deal, and so should we.

And this "Submissiveness" has *nothing* to do with Women being abused or being inferior or being relegated to "second class status". It has only to do with the "Divine Order" that God established in the beginning of Creation. And the "Divine Order" is simply this:

- ✓ Men are called on by God to submit to a *primary* "Leadership/Provider/Protector" Role in this life.
- ✓ Women are called on by God to submit to a *primary* "Support/Helper/Nurturer" Role in this life.

... and these Roles are "set in concrete". They are *unchangeable*. They are "pre-determined" by God and are based in the Wisdom of God, Who chose to make them *uniquely* "Male" and "Female" at conception. So, this has *nothing* to do with "competency" or "ability". It has *nothing* to do with a supposed "Male Superiority" or a "Female Inferiority". It has only to do with God's Will in *why* Men exist as Men, and why Women exist as Women, in the first place. And another way of understanding this Divine Order is by the term "Complementarianism".

Complementarianism is based on the word "Complement" (with an "e" in the middle, not an "i"). And this term signifies that God's Word, the infallible Scriptures, teach *clearly* and *repeatedly*, that when it comes to "Human Sexuality", the *highest* and the *best* and the *greatest* display of God's Glory, that provides for the *greatest* degree of Joy in human relationships, and which manifests the *greatest* degree of

fruitfulness in Ministry, comes about ONLY when the deep and profound *differences* between Men and Women are *embraced* and *celebrated* as "*complements*" to each other. So, the "Divine Order" simply says that God created humans in such a way that Men and Women "*complete and beautify* each other".

Now, if we are going to understand this dynamic properly, the first thing we need to do is to ask the Question:

*Why does this seem to be such a big deal to the writers of Scripture?*

Why do the Old Testament Prophets and the New Testament Apostles seem to go out of their way to teach the "Divine Order" in nearly every Chapter of the Holy Bible? These men saw what many today seem *not* to see, that the Fall of Man brought about two great Dangers that threaten the Glory that is due God's Name being given to Him, and the fullness of Joy that has been promised from ever getting to us:

1. The Fall *ruined* Men so that they would either perpetrate great and pervasive abuses toward Women, or they would take "second seat" and *refuse* to lead.
2. Women would *respond* to centuries of both of these fallen characteristics in Men by seeking to eliminate all sexual differences, even when they have beautiful and vital Significance.

We must understand that Men did not *begin* with being either abusers or wimps. Adam *began* by humbly and joyfully *obeying* the "Divine Order" to which God had called him. It was rebellion, brought about by Sin, that caused the utter destruction of both the desire and power of Adam (and those who came after him) to *humbly* and *joyfully* submit to God's Will.

And Women did not *begin* with either Feminism or Lesbianism. Eve *began* with "glad Submission". And at the crucial point when Eve's deception by the serpent *demand*ed that Adam step up to the plate and protect and defend her, he wimped out, and acquiesced to the will of the Woman. So, what we see today in both Feminism and Lesbianism are merely frail human and sinful *responses* to long standing rebellion by Husbands toward God's Call on their lives to lead and love and protect



their Wives, and to treat them with dignity and respect. We need to understand that both Feminism and Lesbianism were *created* by sinful men. And they are *financed* and *sustained* by weak and emasculated men who do not care what their vacillation is doing to Women.

Because, once again, *weak* and *feminized* Men have sat back and, instead of protecting them and defending them, they have *allowed* the Women in their lives (their Mothers and Daughters and Wives and Sisters) to be deceived by the serpent of ancient, unholy, Gnostic teachings that promise great freedom and happiness. But the Reality is that Feminism, like all Sin, actually works to the *detriment* of all Mankind, *including* Women.

You see, Feminism supposedly seeks to “balance the scales of centuries of Male abuse”. But, it does so by completely *nullifying* all differences based in the fact that Men and Women are unique. And so, what it actually produces is millions of Men that Women *cannot* enjoy, because of either their “feminized *unmanliness*”, or their “distorted and brutal manliness”.

In other words, if we don't teach Boys and Girls the Truth about the Beauty and Value and Wisdom of their differences, and how those unique distinctions are to be “lived out” here on the earth, those “little humans” will *not* mature in healthy ways. They become “warped” and “dysfunctional”. And the result is that we have generations of young adults who come into adulthood *not* understanding what it means to be a mature Man or a mature Woman, who enjoys the fact that God made them to be different so that *He* may be glorified and *they* may have the fullness of Joy. And the price we all pay for that dysfunction is enormous.

It is a direct, measurable effect of the amazing confusion over the Issue of the “Divine Order” as to why we see a whole host of social and sexual maladies springing up all around us, such as:

- Acceptance of sexual promiscuity
- The prominence and acceptance of Pornography
- Exponential rise in female abuse
- Exponential increase in sexually transmitted diseases
- Abortion on demand
- Astronomical increase in illegitimate births
- Rampant divorce

- Ungodly re-marriages
- Rise in the acceptance (and promotion) of sexual perversions

Now let me say something that I hope you hear me say a lot. The Bible does *not* teach that Men are “better” than Women. Neither Moses nor the Prophets nor Jesus nor the Apostles taught that. Male domination and abuse of Women is *always* condemned as “Sin” in the Scriptures. The only people who teach that, and the only Men who practice that, *dishonor* God.

But, as true as that is, it is *equally* true that the same Bible that condemns Male abuse toward Women also condemns Men who do not lead, protect, and provide for Women, and it also condemns Women who usurp authority over Men and dominate them. And this has gone on for so long that the research is crystal clear: Women, who dominate little boys, *destroy* them. For example:

- 98.6% of every single Male member of a gang came from a home that either did not have a Father at all, or from a home where the Mother dominated all the Males.
- 100% of all mass murderers, and the overwhelming majority of all pedophiles, came from a home that saw a domineering Woman in charge.

Now we can stop there with those facts and point our finger at the Woman, but you can't have it both ways. Either the Woman is the “weaker vessel” or she isn't. So, what is a Wife and a Mother supposed to do when her Husband simply *will not* lead? What does a Mother do when the Man, who sired her children, refuses to be responsible to love her and raise them? So, once again, the overwhelming *majority* of sins that Women *initiate* would cease if the Men would rise to the place where God has called them to be.

Now every generation of believers are faced with at least one “titanic Issue” that has to be dealt with. Many of our most cherished and important Doctrines were “hammered out” in the fires of the Christian Church standing against a real serious Issue of either Theology or practice, or both. And the only cure that stopped the false Teaching or the sinful living in its tracks was the Leaders of the Church falling on their faces and crying out to God for help, and then finding

out what God Almighty had already infallibly said in the pages of the Holy Bible. And then these men stood and proclaimed the Truth, loudly and clearly and without any hesitation, and then held professing believers to that Standard. And, in our day, the Issue that satan has brought to the door of the Church is "Human Sexuality".

We must understand, my friends, that the only Reason that false Teaching and sinful living ever becomes the norm among believers is because the Leaders of the Church sit on their "double-wides" and will not teach the word of God. And that is *why* God the Spirit spoke through Moses to say:

**Deuteronomy 32:46b&47a**

**... Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, which you shall command your sons to observe carefully, *even* all the words of this law. For it is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life...**

So, we have to know that there is no such thing as a "generic human being". That is a made-up term to justify a wrong and ungodly understanding of Life. In the beginning, God wisely and wondrously and fearfully made a "Male human being" from the dust of the earth, and a "Female human being" from the rib of the Man. And today, when the seed of the man fertilizes the egg of the Female, God mysteriously and wondrously and fearfully creates either a Male or Female human being.

Now, back in the beginning, God certainly *could* have made them all to be "Males" or all to be "Females". Or He *could* have chosen to make them at the same *time* and in the same *way* and for the same *reason*. But He didn't. And if you know anything at all about God, you know that God doesn't do *anything* simply because He can. No, God *always* has a very important reason *why* He either *does* something or *doesn't* do something.

Now as you begin to read the Bible, it doesn't take very long until you run across words and terms and phrases and concepts that are very simple and very easy to learn and very easy to teach and very easy to believe. And we praise God for that. The basic Message of the Bible is so simple that a child can understand it. But we must agree that there are also words and terms and phrases and concepts in the Bible that are very deep and very profound and very puzzling. And sometimes they

are even very frightening. There are statements in Scripture that, on the surface, look like they don't really belong there, they don't look like they fit in, and so, the temptation is to just skip over them.

But I will tell you that these hard and deep and strange words and phrases and concepts are the "glue" that holds everything else together. And one of these was written as God the Holy Spirit "moved along" the Apostle Paul to write verse 5 of **Ephesians 1** and the first part of verse 6, that says:

**He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace ...**

This says that the only *reason* God chose to save *anybody* is, so that, the intrinsic Beauty and Glory of His Grace would be seen and marveled at. So, saving unworthy sinners by what He alone does for them is the *main reason* that God created the Universe. And *everything else* that exists, exists to serve that one Purpose.

Now the *collection*, the *gathering*, the *congregating*, the *assembling* of those chosen ones is called "The Church". And later in Chapter 5, the same Apostle taught us that the Church is to Jesus what a Bride is to her Husband. And God designed all of this way *before* He ever spoke the Universe into existence, and made Adam from the dust of the earth.

Now when you put all this together, you realize that things like Men and Women and Marriage and Sexual Distinctions and Children all represent something that is *infinitely* better and *infinitely* more important and *infinitely* more glorious and *infinitely* more powerful than themselves. So, the thing we see stands for something we *don't* see. The thing that is *temporary* represents something that is *eternal*. The thing that is *earthly* is a symbol of something that is *heavenly*. So, while the "natural thing" that is seen and that is temporary and that is earthly is very important, it is not nearly as important as the "spiritual thing" that the natural thing represents.

For example, Marriage is for this Life only. And that means that Marriage is "temporary". And Marriage is also visible, and tangible, and it is earthly. And that means that Marriage is very important. But Marriage doesn't exist for its own sake. Marriage represents something

*else* that is *infinitely* better and *infinitely* more important and *infinitely* more glorious and *infinitely* more beautiful than Marriage itself. And what Marriage represents is *not* "temporary".

So, Marriage is really an earthly, tangible, visible, and temporary "manifestation" or "symbol" or "sign" that represents the glorious Mystery of the Relationship between Jesus Christ and His Church. And that means that the only reason that Marriage exists, the only reason God initiated Marriage in the first place in the Garden between Adam and Eve, was to display the Beauty and Wisdom and Glory of what He had *already* decided to do between God the Son and the unworthy sinners He had already determined to save.

So, Husbands are called to be to their Wives what Jesus is to the Church. So, the main reason that God created "Husbands" (by creating Marriage) was so that we could see what it means for Jesus to love and protect and defend and provide for His Church.<sup>4</sup> And *that* is why Husbands are called to "love" and to "lead" and to "protect" and to "defend" and to "provide" for their Wives. Husbands are told to love their Wives, *sacrificially*, and to understand that, as others behold the Beauty and the Glory and the Joy of their Wives, they are seeing the fruits of what the Husband has done for the benefit of his Wife, so they can understand how Jesus relates to His Church.

Wives are called to be to their Husbands what the Church is to Jesus. And so, the only reason God created "Wives" (by creating Marriage) was so that we could see what it means for the Church to be *submissive* to Jesus. And *that* is why Wives are called to come *alongside* of their Husbands, and *love* them, and *support* them, and to *pray* for them, and to faithfully *work hard* so that they may eagerly *help* the Husband fulfill the Call of God on his life. And when others behold the Strength and Dignity and Fruit and Joy of their Husbands, they are seeing the fruits of what the Wife has done for the benefit of her Husband, so they can understand how the Church relates to Jesus. And *that* is why Peter said:

**... you wives, be submissive to your own husbands ...**

... so, this is *much* bigger and *much* more important than the individual Wife or Husband. This is about the Glory of God's Grace being seen and

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<sup>4</sup> The other "Reason" is for procreation to extend the Human Race

valued. So, I pray we can see that both the Leadership of the Husband and the Support of the Wife is *not* about "rights" or "power". It is about "Faith that works through Love". So, the Husband first *believes*, and *then* he acts. The Wife *believes*, and *then* she acts.

But, it must be *first* "by faith", because both the Husband and Wife are fallen. So, as the Husband seeks to trust God and sacrificially loves his Wife, he will *not* always see or even sense that his efforts are bearing fruit. The Husband's efforts to love and to lead and to protect and to provide and to defend will not *always* be seen or recognized as what they are, and thus, they will *not* always be acknowledged or even appreciated. And this is the "Achilles Heel" of all human relationships. Men literally *crave* Respect while Women *crave* Love. And almost all instances of unfaithfulness are the result of the Husband not sensing that he is respected, or the Wife not sensing she is loved.

And satan knows that. So, there will be times when the Husband's sincere and honest effort at doing *exactly* what God said to do will be *completely* misunderstood, and will be perceived by the Wife as something *else*, maybe even something wrong, hideous, or sinful. In the sincere effort to protect and defend and provide, Husbands can very *easily* lose sight that without love, *ultimately*, nothing else matters to his Wife. But we must understand that this doesn't happen because the Wife is "evil", but because she is "human".

And the same thing holds true for the Husband. Because our saved souls are entombed in a fallen, fleshly body, and because we live in a broken world that is *dominated* by satan, there are times when a Wife can do *everything* right, and yet be perceived as doing *nothing* right. And her sincere efforts at doing *exactly* what God said to do is perceived as purposeful attempts at disrespect.

Jesus said that the "cares of this life" and the "deceitfulness of riches" and the "lust of other things entering in", those three things actually have the Power to "choke" the Word of God until the infallible and inerrant Word of the living God no longer has any effect on the Husband. So, when that happens, what is the Wife supposed to do? Peter offers help:

**In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word**

**by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.**

*Part* of being “born again” is that God gives the believer the Ability and Power to “hear” and “know” and “understand” and “believe” and “love” the Truth. So, when a genuinely saved person hears the Truth, part of why he knows it *is* the Truth is because Divine Truth always “rings true” in his ears. He may have never heard it before, but God the Holy Spirit, Who now resides inside of the genuine believer, will “witness” with Truth. Why? Because, God the Spirit is the “Spirit of Truth”.

Three times Jesus Himself called God the Holy Spirit the “Spirit of Truth”, **John 14:17**, **John 15:26**, and **John 16:13**. And from these three Statements about the third Person of the Godhead being the “Spirit of Truth”, we know several things:

- The lost world *cannot* “receive” God the Spirit
- The lost world *does not* “see” Him or “know” Him
- *All* saved people “know” Him
- God the Spirit abides *with* and *in* all believers
- Jesus sends Him from the Father
- God the Spirit *never* brings attention to Himself- He *only* brings attention to Jesus
- He guided the Apostles into *all* Truth and gave them the final, full, and completed Revelation of God
- He does not *initiate* any Truth
- God the Spirit *only* speaks what He hears from the Father

... and this is very important to understand, because Peter says here that when a *believing* Husband becomes *temporarily* ensnared by the “cares of life”, or when he is *temporarily* deceived by the “deceitfulness of riches”, or when the “lust of other things” *temporarily* blinds him, as the Wife displays her, “**chaste and respectful behavior**”, the Husband “sees” it. And as the Husband “observes” his Wife faithfully *struggling* against the many temptations that bombard her, to remain both “chaste” and “respectful” to his God-given authority, the Bible says he just “may” be “won”.

And to a believing Husband, that “Winning” means that he will be brought to a place of Conviction and Repentance. But to a Husband who is lost, this “winning” actually means Salvation. So, as the unsaved Husband observes his Wife struggling against her own fallen inclination, to either *minimize* or completely *ignore* his Calling to love and lead and protect and provide and take control *herself* (disrespect), the Bible says that God “may” well use that godly behavior as a “Means of Grace” and bring him to Repentance and Salvation.

**In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.**

So, this tells us that “Biblical Manhood” is the Divine Calling for Men to take primary responsibility for “Christlike Servant-Leadership” in the Home and in the Church. And “Biblical Womanhood” is the Divine Calling for Women to take up primary responsibility for “Christlike- Servant-Helper/Support” in the Home and in the Church.

And that means that “Female Submission” is *not* some derogatory position of weakness, or a “green light” for abuse. It is, *first*, an acknowledgment that God wisely and purposefully made them uniquely Male and Female for His Glory and for our joyful Good. And, *secondly*, it is trusting that what God established and said about Male Leadership and Female Support is the very *best* way to achieve both of those things.

But since the Burden of primary Responsibility has been given to Men, it is then incumbent on the Husband and the Father to have a clear “Vision” for his family. He should strive to obtain a Zeal for the House of the Lord, a magnificent Commitment to the advancement of the Kingdom, an articulate Dream for the Mission of the Church, and a tenderhearted Tenacity to make that happen by and through God’s Grace and to His Glory. Because you simply *cannot* lead a godly Woman without this.

Throughout Church History, when the Lord was gracious to visit His Church, He *always* raised up a mighty army of deeply spiritual, humble, strong, Christ-like Men who became fervently *committed* to the Word of God and the Mission of the Church. And, time after time, when



that happened, godly Women *always* rejoiced over the Leadership of these transformed Men. And they *always* rushed to enter into a joyful Partnership with them. And we call those times a "Revival", or an "Awakening". And they changed the world. So, here is the way this dynamic works:

## **1. Biblical Submission Flourishes from Biblical Headship**

The first thing we need to know is that a Wife's biblical Submission is almost *always* a happy *response* to her Husband's biblical Leadership. So, when Men are gripped by God and do what God has called them to do (in the way God told them to do it), *most* Women will love it and will be happy to respond to it *supportively*. So, the only kind of Man that a Woman should marry is a Man who understands "Biblical Headship", and is *determined* to grow in it with humility and grace.

Marrying a strong, rich, cute, handsome, and dynamic Man, who has no idea what God requires of him, and has little or no desire to grow into it, will make it very difficult for you to live out your life of godly Submissiveness. It is not *impossible*, and the Bible talks about it several times, but it will be much harder.

## **2. Headship Initiates, Submission Supports**

Godly Submission means an intelligent, happy, wise Support for the Leadership of your Husband. And that means that you really love it when he leads. And by "leading", I mean *he takes the initiative*, not that he *ignores* your counsel and advice, or just goes and makes unilateral decisions.

For example, the Father and Husband should be taking the initiative in Family Devotions. He should be taking the initiative in the Discipline of the children. He should be taking the initiative in Financial Responsibility. He should be taking the initiative in the Moral Standards of the Home, in the pattern of giving, in Church Life, etc. I do not mean that the Husband and Father takes charge in every detailed way, as if he should run everything by himself. Making all the decisions and running everything by himself, is not Leading.

And by "taking the initiative", I don't mean that the Wife can't do any of this. She *can* and she *should*. It simply means that the Father and Husband should lead.

Leadership doesn't mean doing it all. Leadership means sitting down at the table and *taking the initiative* to put things in motion that solve problems. Women *love* to have their husbands take initiative to put things in motion to get problems solved. Of course, they want to be part of the solution and ought to be a part of the solution. But, oh, how sad it is when they have to *drag* their Husbands to the table to get something going like that!

In other words, a *good* Wife, a *submissive* Wife, may actually have *more* competency than her Husband in lots of areas. Leadership recognizes that and sets up the management of the Home in various ways that display the strengths of both Husband and Wife.

### **3. Christ Is the Ultimate Head**

Besides being an intelligent, happy, wise Support for the Leadership of the Husband, "Biblical Submission" also means that, in principle, in the rare cases where the two of you, after arguing for days about what should be done, are at a draw, and you haven't persuaded him and he hasn't persuaded you, the "submissive Wife" says to the Husband: *"I am going to trust you to do what is right here. I disagree with you, but I trust God, and I trust that God is leading you. You are the Head of this Family even as Christ is the Head of the Church. And even though I don't see what you're saying, I believe that God put you over this Family to lead us and I will support you."*

And it is for situations exactly like this that Peter used Abraham's Wife, Sarah, as an example of how godly Wives in the Church should submit to the authority of their Husbands.

But I will end by qualifying this in two ways:

1. A strong, godly and loving Husband will sometimes yield to his Wife, even though she has given him the privilege to do what he thinks best.
2. A godly Wife will never follow her Husband into Sin.

And that tells us that the authority of the Husband is *not* an "absolute Authority". Jesus Christ ALONE has absolute Authority, even over the Husband. So, the Wife will *always* seek to do the right thing and not sin, even if her Husband calls her to follow him into sin. But, she will do so, in such a way, that does not completely undermine

her Husbands limited authority. So much more to say, we'll pick it up again next week, Lord willing.

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.