

1 Peter 3:1-7 —So, just as Christ was submissive to the Father, wives are to be submissive to their husbands, if they're spiritual idiots. Hopefully, they can be won over by your righteous life, especially when he sees your purity and reverence. Remember important beauty comes not from fancy hair, jewelry or fine clothes—it comes from your inner self, that unfading strength that comes from beauty based on a gentle and quiet spirit. That is the spirit which has great worth in God's sight. In the past, great holy women put their hope in God, and He made them beautiful. They were submissive to their husbands, even when they were cowards and lied to the king (e.g., Abraham). You are the daughters of Sarah! Do what is right and don't give way to fear, even when Hagar is younger and prettier.

Husbands—**in the same way**—you are to be considerate as you live with your wives. They are weaker, protect them [just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, Paul in Ephesians]. Remember, they are co-heirs in God's gracious gift of life. Let nothing hinder your prayers.

- Q Why was Peter concerning himself with women who had married unbelievers? That was a no-no, was it not?
- Q What have you seen to be the most persuasive in how a partner lives his/her life to influence his/her partner to more readily accept the Lord God Almighty?
- Q How do you distinguish between submission and subordination?
- Q Why was/is it necessary to caution women about expressing beauty via outward adornment?
- Q In what instances did Sarah obey her husband Abraham? What would you choose not to emulate in the life of Mrs. Abraham?
- Q What is the best way by which husbands can show they are submissive (“in the same way”) to their wives?

A QUESTION TO GET YOU THINKING:

WHY DO WE HAVE A PROBLEM WITH "SUBMISSION" IN OUR CULTURE?

1 PETER 3:1-7

Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ²when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ³Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. ⁴Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ⁵For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful.

They were submissive to their own husbands, ⁶like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

⁷Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

1 Peter 3:8-22 —Peter now turns his attention

away from employee/slave and boss/master relationships and husband/wife relationships to relationships in general. Specifically, our goal should be to live in harmony with one another, to love as members of the same family, by being compassionate and humble. When insulted, insult not. When given evil, repay not with evil—repay insult with blessing, evil with blessing. You were called repay evil and insult with a blessing to inherit a blessing. You are royal priesthood, not members of the hood. You are belong to ME, not them. You are a holy people; you are MY people.

Remember, if you love life and want to see the good days...

1. Speak no evil or deceit.
2. Turn from evil and do good.
3. Seek peace, pursue peace.

Because? The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous; His ears are attentive to our prayers. But the face of the Lord is turned away from those who do evil.

Worry not, however, if you're eager to do good. Who is going to harm you? And, even if you suffer for doing what is right, you are made closer to God (blest). Fundamentally, then, make Christ your *raison d'être*; then you can be prepared to give an answer to any one and every one who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is within you. You are a follower of Christ, so provide this answer with gentleness and respect. That way, your conscience will be clear, and those knuckleheads who speak maliciously about your good behavior within Christ, they'll be ashamed of their slander.

Bottom-line—it is better, if it fulfills God's purpose, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. Christ died for our sins once, for all, for the righteous and the unrighteous, to bring you to God. Christ was put to the death in His body, but made alive by Holy Spirit.

- Q Why do we find it useful to be just the opposite of verse 8?
- Q What is the blessing which comes from treating our enemies as friends? Read this article by [David French in a recent edition of the Atlantic Monthly](#) and learn.
- Q What makes giving an *answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have* successful? Why do we too often forget the beginning of 1 Peter 3:15? And the ending of 1 Peter 3:15?

1 PETER 3:8-22

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. ⁹Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰For,

"Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. ¹¹He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. ¹²For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." [Psalm 34:12-16]

¹³Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear [or *not fear their threats*]; do not be frightened." [Isaiah 8:12] ¹⁵But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹through whom [or *alive in the spirit, through which*] also he went and preached to the spirits in prison ²⁰who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge [or *response*] of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.