

1 Peter 3:1-6 NASB

***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.***

**3:1 In the same way.** In chap. 2, Peter taught that living successfully as a Christian in a hostile world would require relating properly in two places: The civil society (2:13-17), and the workplace (2:18-25). At the start of this chapter, he added two more places: the family (vv. 1-7) and the local church (vv. 8,9). **Be submissive,** Peter insisted that if Christians are to be a witness for their Lord, they must submit not only to the civil, but also to the social order which God has designed. **Own husbands.** Women are not inferior to men in any way, any more than submissive Christians are inferior to pagan rulers or non-Christian bosses (cf. Gal 3:28). But wives have been given a role which puts them in submission to the headship which resides in their own husbands (see notes on 1 Cor 11:1-9; Eph 5:22; Col 3:18; Tit. 2:4,5). **Any...disobedient to the word.** Since obedience has been used in this letter to refer to believers and disobedience to non-believers (see notes on 1:2, 2:8), this is a non-Christian husband. In a culture in which women were viewed as lower than men, the potential for conflict and embarrassment in the marriage of a believer and unbeliever was significant, even as it is in contemporary society. Peter did not urge the Christian wife to leave her husband (cf. 1 Cor. 7:13-16), to preach to her husband ("without a word"), or to demand her rights ("be submissive"). **Won...by the behavior of their wives.** The loving, gracious submission of a Christian woman to her unsaved husband is the strongest evangelistic tool she has. Added to submission is modesty, meekness, and respect for the husband (vv. 2-6).

**3:2 chaste...respectful.** Purity of life with reverence for God is what the unsaved husband should observe consistently.

**3:3 external.** Peter was not here condemning all outward adornment. His condemnation is for incessant preoccupation with the outward to the disregard of one's character (v. 4;

cf 1 Tim 2:9,10). But every Christian woman is especially to concentrate on developing the chaste and reverent Christ like character.

**3:4 gentle and quiet spirit.** Here is beauty that never decays, as the outward body does. “Gentle” is actually “meek or humble” and “quiet” describes the character of her action and reaction to her husband and life in general. Such is precious not only to her husband, but also to Body.

**3:5 holy women.** Certain OT saints (particularly Sarah, v.6) are models of inner beauty, character, modesty, and submissiveness to their husbands (see notes on Pr 31:10-31).

**3:6 frightened by any fear.** There are potential fears for a Christian woman who sets out to be submissive to her unsaved husband, as to where such submission might lead. But Peter’s instruction to the wife is not be intimidating or fearful, but as a principle, she is to submit to her husband. This precludes any coercion to sin, disobedience to God’s word, or imposition of physical harm (cf. Act 4:18-20; 5:28-28; Tit 1:6).