

Standing in the True Grace of God

Peter's Life, Letters and Lord

1 Peter 3:1-7

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7.

1. What is your initial reaction when you read the words “wives...be submissive to your husbands” (v. 1)? What experiences or examples inform your thinking?
2. Peter is instructing wives and husbands to relate to one another “in the same way” (vv. 1, 7) as citizens to rulers and slaves to masters. Look back at 1 Peter 2:13-20. What similarities should there be in motive and attitude in these relationships? (2:13, 17-18)
3. What motivation does Peter give in verse 1 for a wife to be submissive toward her husband?
4. How could a woman’s wordless witness win her unbelieving husband to Christ?
5. What does Peter say are the characteristics of a submissive wife? (vv. 2-4)
6. How did Jesus model submission? (Matt. 20:25-28; John 10:17-18; 13:3-17; Phil. 2:5-8; 1 Pet. 2:21-24)
7. Why do women struggle with submitting to their husbands?

How does looking to Jesus help women in this struggle?

8. What does Peter say is the adornment that makes a godly woman beautiful? (v. 4)

How does a woman develop such a spirit? (vv. 5-6)

What should be her primary motivation for developing inner beauty? (v. 4b)

9. The biblical view of inner beauty stands in stark contrast with our culture's obsession with external beauty. What are the disadvantages of valuing external beauty?

What are the advantages of valuing inner beauty?

10. This passage does not teach that a woman's outward appearance is unimportant, only that inner beauty is more valuable. Consider the time, effort and energy you spend on your outer and your inner beauty. What adjustments do you need to make?

11. How does Peter instruct husbands to live with their wives?

How are husbands to view their wives?

What serious consequence will result if they disobey these instructions?

12. Peter ends this passage by reminding husbands that their wives are "heirs with [them] of the gracious gift of life" (v. 7). Why is this significant for both wives and husbands to remember? (Gal. 3:26-29)