

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

First Peter Bible Study — I Peter 3:1-7 Lesson #10

**INSTRUCTIONS: Read the entire section of Scripture in First Peter before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God's word.

- 1-2 Likewise you **WIVES, be SUBMISSIVE to your own HUSBANDS**, that even if some do **NOT OBEY the WORD, they, without a word, may be WON by the CONDUCT of their wives**, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.
- **Ephesians 5:21-23** “_____ to one another in the fear of God. Wives, _____ to your own _____, as to the _____. For the husband is the _____ of the wife, as also _____ is _____ of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.”
 - **I Peter 5:5** “Likewise you younger people, _____ yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be _____ to one _____, and be clothed with _____, for ‘God resists the _____, but gives _____ to the _____.’”
 - **Philippians 2:3** “Let nothing be done through _____ ambition or _____, but in lowliness (humility) of mind let each esteem (regard) _____ better than _____.”
 - **Colossians 3:18** “Wives, _____ to your own _____, as is fitting in the Lord.”
 - **Ephesians 1:22-23** “And has put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the _____ over all things to the _____, which is His _____, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

Definition: “SUBMISSIVE or SUBMITTING” — Being HUMBLE or compliant; YIELDING to the authority or control of another — the **opposite** of REBELLIOUS. Here in First Peter, the command is for wives to be submissive to their husbands, but it is also a command to each of us in the Body of Christ, to be submissive to one another, as Jesus called us to be servants. **Also, it says this submission is to be “as unto the Lord” or “as is fitting in the Lord”.** That means the wife is never to do anything that is ungodly, just because her husband asks her to do it, because that would not be “unto the Lord” if it is something sinful or wrong in any way.

- **Ephesians 5:24** “Therefore, just _____ the _____ is _____ to Christ, so let the _____ be to their own _____ in everything.”
- **Titus 2:4-5** “That they admonish the young _____ to _____ their _____, to love their _____, to be _____, chaste (modest), _____, good, _____ to their own _____, that the _____ of God may not be BLASPHEMED (spoken against with CONTEMPT).”

Definition: “If some do NOT OBEY the WORD, they, without a word, may be WON by the CONDUCT of their wives” – Most people think of this verse as applying to a Christian wife married to a non-Christian, but let's get real here - Christian husbands can be “disobedient to the word” in various areas of their lives, also. **The wife is not supposed to be preaching and nagging (that's what it means by “without a word”)** her husband to change, but trusting the Holy Spirit to bring him under conviction, and living a godly life before him, as an example. When it says, “when they observe **your chaste conduct**,” chaste means pure, modest, virtuous and righteous, so the wife is to be an example of godliness to her disobedient husband.

• **Proverbs 31:10-12** “Who can find a _____ woman? For her worth is far above _____. The heart of her _____ safely _____ in her; so he will have no lack of gain. She does him _____ and not _____ all the days of her life.”

3-4 Do not let your beauty be that **OUTWARD ADORNING of arranging the HAIR, of wearing GOLD, or of putting on FINE APPAREL**; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible ornament of a **GENTLE and QUIET SPIRIT**, which is very precious in the sight of God.

• **I Timothy 2:8-10** “Therefore I desire that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath or doubting; in like manner also, that the _____ adorn themselves in _____ apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided _____ or _____ or pearls, but, which is proper for _____ professing _____, with good works.”

• **Ephesians 3:16-19** “That He would grant (give) you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His _____ in the _____ man (YOUR spirit), that Christ may dwell in your _____ through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to _____ with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — [and] to _____ the _____ of Christ which passes _____; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Definition: “OUTWARD ADORNING of arranging the HAIR, of wearing GOLD, or of putting on FINE APPAREL” – Some Christians, because of their church tradition and legalism, say women should not wear any make-up or jewelry, and they base their teachings on I Peter 3:3-4 and I Timothy 2:8-9. In I Peter 3:3-4, we have a **contrast** between the woman who dresses up and adorns herself on the outside only, and the woman who is sweet and godly on the inside. **This “gentle and quiet spirit” is actually the character qualities of Jesus Christ, also known as the Fruit of the Spirit**, and these are the things that are important to God. The hypocrisy in some Christian churches comes where you see denominations who don’t allow the women to wear make-up or jewelry, but they wear elaborate hair-dos. Or, you have women who will not wear any jewelry, not even a wedding ring, because it’s gold, and yet they will gossip and be full of envy, malice and bitterness. **In other words, the wearing or not wearing of jewelry and make-up does not make a woman holy and Christ-like.** I Peter 3:4 says, “Let it be the hidden person of the heart”, but **legalism focuses on the outward appearance**, what can be seen. The Pharisees wanted to be “seen by men” when they prayed, fasted or gave to the poor, but Jesus blasted them for being hypocrites, cruel, selfish, and full of pride. The **scriptural principle** being taught in I Peter 3:3-4 is that women should focus on their inner character, as opposed to outer “window dressing”. It is not meant to be a command to never wear jewelry, or else women could never wear clothes either, because it says “of putting on apparel”. The word “fine” is in *Italics* in your Bible, so that means it was added to help the reader understand the passage, and the original just says putting on apparel. The main principle God wants to get across in I Timothy 2:8-9 is that women should dress modestly, and that all adornment (jewelry, hair styles, clothes) should be in moderation. It is wrong for a Christian, man or woman, to spend too much time and money on fancy clothes, jewelry, and so forth - that is being self-centered and self-absorbed. In our society today, you could also include such things as plastic surgery. God is not concerned with how many wrinkles or how much cellulite you have. The world will try to get you to spend your money on face lifts, “boob jobs” and the like, but they are ultimately of no importance to God, and your money could have been spent more wisely in other ways, such as helping others, or in getting out the gospel.

• **Proverbs 12:4** “An excellent _____ is the _____ of her _____, but she who causes _____ is like _____ in the bones.”

Definition: "Ornament of a GENTLE and QUIET SPIRIT" – This is speaking of our **human spirit** within us, also called our **"heart"** and **"the INNER MAN"** in Scripture. After we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior and are saved, **our HUMAN SPIRIT is indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God.** It is our **SPIRIT** that is "born again" when we receive Jesus as our Savior. As we trust God more and more, and grow in our faith in Christ, we are conformed to the image of Christ (we become LIKE HIM in our spirits) we will show that **"GENTLE and QUIET SPIRIT"** to the world. **God is MUCH MORE concerned with our SPIRIT being right with Him rather than how stylishly we are dressed, or how much jewelry and "BLING" we are wearing.** There's an old hymn I remember from the Baptist hymnal called "Let Others See Jesus in You," and it asks the question, "Do others see Jesus in you?"

• **II Corinthians 4:16** "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our _____ man is perishing, yet the _____ man is being renewed (strengthened) day by day."

• **I Corinthians 2:11** "For what _____ knows the things of a _____ except the _____ of the man, which is _____ him?"

• **Romans 8:16** "The Spirit [of God] Himself bears witness with our _____ that we are _____ of God."

5-6 For in this manner, in former times, **the holy women who TRUSTED in GOD** also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, **as SARAH OBEYED Abraham**, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

Definition: "As SARAH OBEYED Abraham" – We hardly ever think of the story of Abraham from his wife Sarah's point of view, but here we are given a brief insight. Here's the story, and Abraham did this twice: Abraham lied and manipulated out of fear that someone might kill him over Sarah, his wife. When he lied and said, "She is my sister," it was actually a half-truth, because she was his half-sister (it was okay to marry a close relative back then). It started with Abraham just twisting the truth a little (telling "a little white lie", or half-truth), but the situation got way out of hand. **Evidently, Sarah trusted God and did what her husband told her to do, and God protected Sarah from any harm.** We are to have the same kind of faith as these **"Holy women who TRUSTED in GOD"**, but each situation is different. There may be some times where a godly wife will have to say, "No" to her husband, if he asks her to do something wrong, and there may be times when she will have to go along with him and let God teach him a lesson.

• **Genesis 20:9-13** "Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, 'What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great _____? You have done to me things you ought not to have done.'.....And Abraham said, 'Because I thought surely there is no fear of God in this place; and _____ will _____ me because of my _____. Besides, she actually is my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife; and it came about, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said to her, "This is the kindness which you will show to me: everywhere we go, say of me, 'He is my brother.'"

7 Likewise you husbands, dwell with them with understanding, **giving HONOR to the WIFE, as to the weaker vessel**, and as being HEIRS TOGETHER of the grace of life, **that your PRAYERS may NOT be HINDERED.**

• **Ephesians 5:33** "Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so _____ his own _____ as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."

• **Romans 13:8-10** "Owe no one anything except to _____ one another, for he who _____ another (including his wife) has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, 'You shall not _____, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not bear _____, You

shall not _____, and if there is any other commandment, are all _____ up in this saying, namely, 'You shall _____ your neighbor AS _____'."

• **Proverbs 18:22** "He who finds a _____ finds a _____ thing, and obtains _____ from the Lord."

• **Ephesians 5:28-29** "So _____ ought to _____ their own _____ as their own bodies; he who _____ his _____ loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the _____ does the _____."

• **Colossians 3:19** "Husbands, _____ your _____ and do not be _____ toward them."

• **Ephesians 5:25-26** "Husbands, _____ your _____, just as Christ also _____ the _____ and gave _____ for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word."

Definition: "That your PRAYERS may NOT be HINDERED" – Scripture tells us of many things that may **HINDER** our prayers (**keep them from being answered or being effective**), but maybe you never thought of not treating your wife right as being one of them. Here are some other hindrances to effective prayer: **(1.) Unbelief, Lack of Faith** - I'm sorry if it seems harsh, but God says that the one who doubts (has no faith) will receive nothing from the Lord. **(2.) Selfish prayers** - If we ask any petition merely to receive something to use for our pleasure or self gratification we are "asking amiss," and should not expect to receive what we ask from God. This explains why many prayers remain unanswered. The true purpose of prayer is that God may be glorified in the answer (John 14:13). **(3.) Sin is a hindrance to our prayers** - The psalmist's prayer, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and **see if there is any wicked way in me**" (Psalm 139:23-24). Wait before God until He puts His finger upon the thing that is displeasing in His sight. Then, this sin should be confessed and put away. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear" (Psalm 66:18). **(4.) Putting other things before God in your life** - Allowing other things to become "idols" in your life, replacing God in your heart, causes God to refuse to listen to your prayers. "Son of man, these men have **set up their idols in their heart**, and put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their face. Should I be inquired of at all by them?" (Ezekiel 14:3) **(5.) Hardening your heart to the needs of the poor** - Proverbs 21:13, "Whoever stops his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard."

• **James 4:3** "You _____, and do _____ receive, because you _____ amiss (with wrong motives), that you may consume it upon your own _____."

• **James 1:6-8** "But let him _____ in _____, with _____ doubting, for he who _____ is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let _____ that man suppose that he will _____ anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, _____ in all his ways."

• **Isaiah 59:1-2** "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save, neither is His ear dull that it cannot _____; but your _____ have separated between you and your God, and your _____ have _____ His _____ from you, that He will _____ hear."

Definition: "Giving HONOR to the WIFE, as to the WEAKER vessel" – This is not an insult to the wife. Yes, men are physically stronger than women in some ways, but what is meant here is that women are to be treated with HONOR and **CARE as you would handle a piece of delicate porcelain or China**. Don't be rough and unfeeling, but treat her with honor and respect.