

# The Connection Between the Home and Heaven

I Peter 3:1-7

Introduction:

- Someone said, Marriage is when you agree to spend the rest of your life sleeping in a room that's too warm, beside someone who's sleeping in a room that's too cold.
- Two different people coming together in a relationship isn't always easy. God's formula is  $1+1=1$ - Unity!
- Marriage is not 50/50- it is 100/100! Each spouse should commit to meeting the needs of the other! Love is committing to do this, without expecting anything in return!
- Our home can bring glory to God, even if it is just one spouse who is saved

## I. The submissive wife v. 1-5

### a. Be in subjection

- i. Subjection is a dirty word or idea in our culture today
- ii. The godly wife will be submissive to her husband. This submission isn't a reward for the husband's good behavior; but simply because God commands it.

### b. The wife's example- Christ

- i. Likewise- referring back to 2:21- Christ is the example for wives!
  1. Submission, not inferiority- "Son" in function not in rank
  2. God has established a relationship of authority in the home that has nothing to do with a woman being inferior. It has everything to do with God's design for order and function
  3. The wife is no less valuable than her husband, just as Christ is no less valuable than God. She is no less human, just as Christ is no

less God! Yet, the Lord Jesus was submissive to accomplish God's plan

- ii. See Eph. 5:21-24
  - iii. Submission to authority can be totally consistent with equality in importance, dignity, and honor. Jesus was subject to both His parents (Luke 2:51) and to God the Father but was not lower than either of them.
  - iv. We know that in Christ, there is no difference, or hierarchy
- c. The wife can win:
- i. Her lost husband
  - ii. Lost kids
  - iii. Peace and joy in the home
- d. There is a sense in which a wife's efforts to shape her husband through her own words and efforts may hinder the power of God's working on the husband. It is much more effective to submit in the way God says to, thus demonstrating trust in Him, and to let God have his way with the husband.
- i. Proverbs 27:15- A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.
- e. True beauty- v. 3-5
- i. V. 4- Inner beauty- It is not wrong to look nice outwardly, but the emphasis should be on inward
  - ii. Peter did not forbid all adornment. But for the godly woman outward adornment is always in moderation, and her emphasis is always on inward adornment.
  - iii. Application for women today: Hollywood, and the media portray the exact opposite. They say perfect skin, a certain size, revealing outfits that accentuate and bring attention, etc. are what true beauty is. We should not let worldly trends influence us in this regard. Moms and ladies should teach their daughters and younger ladies in the church about true beauty. See I Tim 2:9-10

- iv. This beautiful woman is adorned in a meek and quiet spirit
  - 1. One of the fruit of the Spirit in Gal. 5
  - 2. This is yielding our strength to Christ for Him to use
  - 3. These character traits are not promoted for women by our culture; yet they are very precious in the sight of God.
  - 4. The inner beauty of a godly woman is incorruptible. This means that it does not decay or get worse with age. Instead, incorruptible beauty only gets better with age, and is therefore of much greater value than the beauty that comes from the hair, jewelry, or clothing.
- f. V. 5- A wife's submission is a powerful expression of her trust in God
- g. V. 6 Sara's example of submission
  - i. She loved her husband
  - ii. She honored her husband and allowed him to lead her
- II. The wise husband- v. 7
  - a. Likewise ye husbands- Christ is our example too! See Eph. 5:25
  - b. We ought to be the kind of husband that is worthy of such submission in verses 1-5, Eph 5:33
  - c. Dwell with them: A godly husband lives in unity with his wife. He doesn't merely share a house, but he truly lives with her.- The essential unity and oneness in marriage (Eph. 5:31)
  - d. Knowledge- understanding- know your wife!
  - e. Giving honor: A godly husband knows how to make his wife feel honored (holding the door, surprising her, etc.). Though she submits to him, he takes care that she does not feel like she is an employee or under a tyrant.
  - f. This was a radical teaching in the world Peter lived in. In that ancient culture a husband had absolute rights over his wife and the wife had virtually no rights in the marriage. In the Roman world, if a man caught his wife in an act of adultery he could kill her on the spot. But if a wife caught her husband, she could do

nothing against him. All the duties and obligations in marriage were put on the wife. Peter's radical teaching is that the husband has God-ordained duties and obligations toward his wife.

- g. "weaker vessel"- Weaker, not inferior or less valuable. The woman is generally physically weaker, and more dependent than the man. She may be more competent in other areas- devotion to Christ, able to bear pain and deal with adversity, etc. We must remember there are differences between man and woman!
  - h. I Tim 2 says Adam was formed first- and many jokes have been made here that I won't repeat
  - i. Job title, salary, etc. mean nothing- God's word still stands!
  - j. When a woman submits, she doesn't go down she actually goes up to 1st place. She can be treated with honor
- III. The riches of the Christian life- v. 7
- a. Heirs together: A godly husband realizes that his spouse is not only his wife, but also his sister in Jesus. Though weaker, the woman has equal standing before Christ. They are joint-heirs!
  - b. Your prayers- Our home is a direct connection to Heaven!
  - c. The Christian life is primarily to be lived out in the home!
  - d. There are many spiritual blessings to be enjoyed between the godly wife and godly husband!

#### Conclusion:

- See v. 8-11- are for all Christians but especially believers in the home!
  - Be courteous
  - Don't be vengeful
  - Maintain honesty and openness
  - Seek peace- Open lines of communication- don't let steam build up in the boiler- kaboom!
  - Love- not just an emotion but a sacrificial commitment. Be willing to overlook faults and imperfections- Love covers a multitude of sins- nobody is perfect
  - The goal will be spiritual enrichment, and our prayers won't be hindered