

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, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

1 Peter 3:1-7

Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, 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.

1 Peter 3:1-7

For 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, like 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.

1 Peter 3:1-7

Husbands, 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.

The context:

The verses that come before and after this passage tell us to behave well, even if we are treated poorly. Submit to the authorities (Nero!), in a time of persecution

Slaves, submit to your masters – even bad masters.

Christ is our example. He suffered unjustly, but did not retaliate or threaten.

“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps”

Right attitude in bad situations

The text in the context:

Both the verses for wives and the verse for the husbands start with “In the same way”... Wives, in the same way be submissive ... Husbands, in the same way be considerate

Submit as you would to the authorities?

As slaves do their masters?

No, in the same way as Christ did.

The text:

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner

Vessel

and as heirs with you

One word

of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder

Cut down, cut off, hew down

your prayers.

The meaning

Submitting is a positive, Christ-like attitude, not implying inferiority

Marriage has a deep spiritual meaning



Rembrandt van Rijn - Isaac and Rebecca (the Jewish bride, 1665)

**Then God said, "Let us make man in our
image, in our likeness**

**So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.**

**God blessed them and said to them, "Be
fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth
and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and
the birds of the air and over every living
creature that moves on the ground."**

Man and woman
together
are created in the image of God

- Man was the image of God before God made woman out of (a rib from) the side of Adam
- As in God there is a loving relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that love should be expressed in the loving relationship between man and woman (and their children).

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Why from a side?

Not out of nothing, as all material and living things

Not from dust or clay, as the man,

**But from the flesh of man himself, out of refined
dust**

Not from his head

to stand over him and rule him

Not from his feet,

to stand under him and be trampled by him

But...

From a side

to stand next to him,

From a side

The best part

From a part close to his heart

To be loved by him

From under his shoulder

To be protected by him



Marriage as image of God

How to recognise God in a marriage...?

1. Love

2. Giving life

3. Faithfulness



Love



- **God is love (1John 4:8, 16)**
- **Love between Father, Son and Spirit (John 3:35)**
- **People can express love**

Giving Life



- **God gives life, breaths life into man (Gen 2:7)**
- **Life is in the Son (1John 5:11)**
- **The Spirit of God has made me;
the breath of the Almighty gives me life.(Job 33:4)**
- **People can pass their life on together**



Faithfulness

- **God is faithful** (Ex 34:6)
- **As image-bearers of God we are called to be faithful to one another particularly in marriage**



The effect of sin:

- *Shame*
- *Desire*
- *Ruling of man over woman*
- *The pain of childbirth*
- *Death*

A deeply damaged image of God

**The effects of sin:
A distorted image**

- *Of ourselves*
- *Of marriage*
- *Of God*





**Marriage can also
be an image of
redemption**

**Submit to one
another out of
reverence for Christ.**



Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.



Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.



In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body.



"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.



**How do we do
that?**

Equality before God

Headship

Differences in role

Headship

Head: the word “head” (Kephale) also means source.

- To feed: the mouth is in the head..
- **Not:** not listening... The ears are part of the head also...
- To cherish: excludes all forms of violence
- Caring for does mean to lead, **not** bossing, as Christ leads the church





Differences in role

- A man must **love** his wife
- A woman must **respect** her husband



“De Bruid”

(Johan Thorn Prikker), 1892/93