

Winning an Unsaved Spouse's Salvation
Part 1: The Unsaved Husband
1 Peter 3:1-7

I. TURN TO Passage to read...1 Peter 3:1-7

1 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. 7 You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

A. Ancient wives...

1. Peter's advice to wives is six times as long as that to husbands. Why?
 - a) wife's position was far more difficult than that of the husband.
 - b) If HUSBAND became a Christian, he would automatically bring his wife with him to Church -no problem.
 - c) If a WIFE became a Christian while her HUSBAND DID NOT, - unprecedented and produced problems! Why?
2. In ancient civilization, women had no rights at all.
 - a) A woman was a thing;
 - (1) Owned by her husband = sheep and his goats;
 - (2) on no account could she leave him,
 - (3) BUT he could dismiss her at any moment.
 - b) In **Greek civilization** the duty of the woman was "to remain indoors and to be obedient to her husband."
 - (1) It was the sign of a good woman that "she must see as little, hear as little and ask as little as possible."
 - (2) no independent existence and no mind of her own
 - (3) her husband could divorce her almost at will
 - c) **Roman law**: woman had no rights.
 - (1) In law she remained forever a child.
 - (a) *patria potestas*= the father's power=the right of life/death over her
 - (b) marriage= she passed equally into the power of her husband.
 - (2) She was entirely subject to her husband - completely at his mercy.
 - (a) Roman matrons were prohibited from drinking wine, and Egnatius beat his wife to death when he found her doing so.
 - (b) Gallus dismissed his wife because she had once appeared in the streets without a veil.

(c) Vetus divorced his wife because he saw her secretly speaking to a freed woman in public.

(d) Sophus divorced his wife because once she went to the public games.

d) No woman could dare take any decision for herself

e) For a wife to change her religion while her husband did not was unthinkable.

3. Occupying their time...

a) In the ancient world women had no part in public life whatsoever;

(1) they had nothing to pass their time;

(2) for that reason it was sometimes argued that they must be allowed an interest in dress and adornment.

(3) Valerius: "Why should men grudge women their ornaments and their dress? Women cannot hold public offices, or priesthods, or gain triumphs; they have no public occupations. What, then, can they do but devote their time to adornment and to dress?"

b) OT tells of the day of judgment in which "extreme adorners" will be destroyed.

[Isaiah 3:18–24](#). (to the women of Zion): "18 In that day the Lord will take away the beauty of *their* anklets, headbands, crescent ornaments, 19 dangling earrings, bracelets, veils, 20 headdresses, ankle chains, sashes, perfume boxes, amulets, 21 finger rings, nose rings, 22 festal robes, outer tunics, cloaks, money purses, 23 hand mirrors, undergarments, turbans and veils. 24 Now it will come about that instead of sweet perfume there will be putrefaction; Instead of a belt, a rope; Instead of well-set hair, a plucked-out scalp; Instead of fine clothes, a donning of sackcloth; And branding instead of beauty."

(1) Isaiah: When women cultivate beauty for beauty's sake, they thereby reflect the moral decay of the nations and detract from the glory of God

c) Barclay: In the world of the Greeks and the Romans it is interesting to collect the references to personal adornments. There were as many ways of dressing the hair as there were bees in Hybca. Hair was waved and dyed, sometimes black, more often auburn. Wigs were worn, especially blonde wigs, which are found even in the Christian catacombs; and hair to manufacture them was imported from Germany, and even from as far away as India. Hair bands, pins and combs were made of ivory, and boxwood, and tortoiseshell and sometimes of gold, studded with gems.

(1) Purple was the favorite color for clothes.

(2) Diamonds, emeralds, topazes, opals and sardonyx were favorite stones.

d) Christianity came into a world of luxury and decadence combined.

B. Proposition: 2 PARTS to winning an unsaved husband's salvation

1. The PERSON you MUST be (this week)

2. The PROCESS God MAY use

3. MESSAGE:

a) YOU FOCUS on WHAT YOU CAN DO = YOU and YOURSELF ALONE

b) God: I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR HUSBAND

C. Terms / Overview

1. NOT a discussion of CHRISTIAN Marriage - husbands who are disobedient to the word = UNSAVED.
 - a) ALL are relationships of THIS SECTION are with NON-CHRISTIANS
 - (1) Human institutions
 - (2) Masters / Employers
 - (3) Unsaved Husbands
 - (4) Unsaved Wives
2. What Peter does not teach in this passage...
 - a) NOT to Leave her husband.
 - (1) exactly the same attitude as Paul takes (1 Corinthians 7:13–16).
 - (2) Remain with the heathen husband so long as he does not send her away.
 - b) NOT to preach or to argue.

II. The PERSON you MUST be.

A. Peter: You MUST Be a SUBMISSIVE wife with CONDUCT and CHARACTER that God greatly values as were HOLY WOMEN who have gone before you.

B. Submission:

[3:1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word,](#)

1. [“In the same way, you wives”](#)
 - a) Same way as: 1 Peter 2:13-3:7
 - (1) [2:13](#) Submit yourselves...to every human institution- Driving Verb thru 3:7 = SUBMIT
 - (2) [2:18 Servants](#), be submissive
 - (3) [3:1](#) In the same way, you wives be submissive to your own husbands – who are disobedient to the word (unsaved).
 - (4) [3:7](#) You husbands, in the same way
2. [“be submissive to your own husbands”](#)
 - a) [“be submissive”](#)
 - (1) Arrange yourself under – military term
 - (2) Do things his way!
 - (3) RELINQUISH YOUR INDEPENDENT RIGHTS TO HIS ORDAINED AUTHORITY
 - (a) Voluntary SELFLESSNESS & DEPENDENCE
 - (4) CONTINUOUSLY – Wives, LET your LIVES be CHARACTERIZED by Submissiveness
 - (5) Husband has the final authority UNLESS he is telling you to SIN!
 - (6) To your own husbands
 - (a) NOT to anyone else's!

- (b) Scripture NOWHERE commands a woman to submit any man other than her husband.
- (c) Peter is speaking to God's design for marriage!
- (7) Paul (Christian wives who could have UNSAVED husbands – just not called out as Peter does).
 - [Colossians 3:18](#) *Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*
 - [Ephesians 5:22](#) *Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*
 - [1 Corinthians 11:3](#) *But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.*
- (8) REMEMBER – this is A ROLE, NOT INFERIORITY
 - (a) Christ, Himself, is in a ROLE as SON that places Him UNDER THE FATHER, yet He is FULLY GOD as God the Father is
 - (b) Already saw Gal 3:28 – We are all on the same spiritually equal level before God!
- b) [“so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word,”](#)
 - (1) “so that even if” = SINCE = IMPLIED YES ANSWER
 - (a) I KNOW there are some who are disobedient to the word
 - (b) “Since you have some unsaved husbands out there...”
 - (2) REALITY is that SOME of your husbands ARE UNSAVED.
 - (3) [“any of them”](#) = “SOME”
 - (a) Peter acknowledging that MOST Christian women were married to Christian husbands
 - (b) Only SOME had unsaved husbands
 - (4) [“disobedient to the word”](#) = UNSAVED- UNREGENERATE
 - (a) word = word of reconciliation = GOSPEL!
- c) SO – FIRST must be a SUBMISSIVE WIFE
 - (1) To your own unsaved Husband
 - (2) NOT when asked to sin. Then OBEY God not man (Acts 4:19-20).
 - (3) Arrange yourself UNDER His authority

C. Conduct

[3:1...they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.](#)

1. [“they may won without a word by the behavior of their wives.”](#)
 - a) = Actions NOT words = CONDUCT!
 - b) BEHAVIOR is STRONGEST EVANGELISTIC TOOL she has.
 - c) WHAT YOU DO > WHAT YOU SAY! =WORDS
 - d) NOT SAYING they will be saved APART from the WORD of God!
 - (1) 1 Peter 1:23 – Born THROUGH the word.

- e) **“behavior”** =Literally “ALL YOUR turning up and down; going back and forth”
- (a) = WHOLE MANNER OF LIFE
 - (b) = WHOLE daily walk
 - (c) He gives it’s WIDEST application of your CONDUCT – what is true of ALL of them
- f) IMPORTANT WORD to PETER! – use 6X in this letter! – 2X in 2 Peter!
- 1 Peter 1:15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all **your behavior**;
- 1 Peter 1:18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile **way of life** inherited from your forefathers,
- 1 Peter 2:12 Keep your **behavior** excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.
- 1 Peter 3:1-2 ... they may be won without a word by the **behavior** of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful **behavior**.
- 1 Peter 3:16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good **behavior** in Christ will be put to shame.
- 2 Peter 3:10-14** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. 11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy **conduct** and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! 13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,
2. 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.
- a) Peter begins to DESCRIBE the submissive behavior that may win a husband.
 - b) BAD Translation!
 - (1) **NKJ** 1 Peter 3:2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.
 - (2) **YLT** 1 Peter 3:2 having beheld your pure behavior in fear,
 - (3) **Young’s wins!** = “**in fear, pure behavior**”
 - (4) **NAS** is “**liberalizing**” the text!
 - (5) Best way to translate this: “as they observe your in fear [of God] pure/holy behavior.
 - c) **TWO** aspects of CONDUCT here:
 - (1) In fear [of God]
 - (2) Pure / holy behavior
 - d) “in fear (not respectful word)...behavior”
 - (1) Peter ALREADY set the context for Fear in this book, right?
 - (a) TO GOD!

- (2) Here: IMMEDIATELY defines behavior as RESPONSIBLE TO A HIGHER AUTHORITY – GOD.
- (3) TO ALL READERS: [1 Peter 1:15-17](#) but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; 16 because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.” 17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *on earth*;
- (4) SERVANTS / EMPLOYEES: [1 Peter 2:18](#) Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect (=in fear), not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.
- (5) Wives: [1 Peter 3:2](#) as they observe your IN FEAR, holy behavior.
- (6) ALL – DON’T FEAR MEN: [1 Peter 3:14](#) But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, *you are* blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED,
- (7) Paul said it this way: [1 Timothy 5:20](#) Those (i.e. elders) who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful of *sinning*.(=will have fear).
- (8) [1 John 4:17-18](#) By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.
- (a) Fear of God is LIMITED to CHASTENING in THIS LIFE for SINNING REGULARLY
- (b) No FEAR of ETERNAL PUNISHMENT – we have “confidence in the day of judgment.”
- (9) Peter:
- (a) FEAR ONLY GOD for JUDGING ONGOING SIN IN THIS LIFE that takes you OFF the path of HOLINESS.
- (b) NEVER FEAR MEN!
- (c) Jesus said it very nicely to the UNSAVED:
[Luke 12:4-5](#) “I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. 5 “But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!
 (i) Fear God – Not MAN!
- e) “Chaste (Pure/holy) behavior”
- (1) Another major theme of Peter!
- (2) Root for “Be Holy” in [1:15-16](#) (Actually 6X in the letter)
- (3) Verb form in [1:22](#) Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

- (4) Why all the counts? PETER IS ALL ABOUT PURE, HOLY BEHAVIOR in YOUR WHOLE LIFE!
- (5) Repetition is the MOTHER of LEARNING! (Joshua 1:5-9)
- (6) Here: “chaste” is grammatically tied to “in fear”
 - (a) = chaste behavior that arises out of fear of God.
- (7) “Chaste” carries more weight of moral behavior than is in the word.
 - (a) There – but not exclusive!
- (8) Peter now goes on to more specifics.
 - (a) Has funneled down
 - (b) Submissive behavior to
 - (c) In fear / Pure behavior
 - (d) Not this behavior MUST NOT BE...

3. 3 Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;

- a) v.2 ends: “as they observe your in fear, pure behavior.” V3. starts: “WHOSE must be NOT the outward adornment of...”
 - (1) “whose” means “whose BEHAVIOR” - Peter continues to define conduct
 - (2) “NOT” is
 - (a) VERY STRONG
 - (b) But is RELATIVE
 - (c) John 6:27 “Do NOT labor for food that perishes but for food that endures to eternal life” = RELATIVE to food of eternal life your shouldn’t labor for food that perishes.
 - (d) Not an ABSOLUTE negation.
 - (i) = DON’T LET IT EVER BE THE GREATER!
 - (ii) BECAUSE IT WON’T have ANY BEARING on HIS SALVATION
 - (e) Hence, “merely” in NASB
- b) Peter –
 - (1) External adornment WILL NOT win their SALVATION.
 - (2) AVOID EXTREME adornment.
- c) braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;
 - (1) Three equal examples of external adornment that DO NOT EXEMPLIFY “chaste and respectful behavior” of v.2
 - (a) Extreme terms
 - (2) braiding the hair,
 - (a) Literally “enweaving the hair” = elaborate gathering of hair into knots, as well as using golden combs and nets in the hair”
 - (b) Brought to mind the wife from the Simpson’s with the pillar of hair like a cylinder!
 - (3) wearing gold jewelry,
 - (a) Literally “putting around” = a woman’s body covered with jewelry

(4) or putting on dresses:

(a) = “the practice of appearing in a great variety of dresses

D. Summary: Peter: You MUST Be a SUBMISSIVE wife with CONDUCT and CHARACTER that God greatly values as were HOLY WOMEN who have gone before you.

1. SUBMISSIVE - Relinquish your WILL to HIS – be under him
2. Conduct =
 - a) Behavior not words (won without a word)
 - b) Whole Manner of Life
 - c) In Fear of God (Respectful)
 - d) Pure / Holy (Chaste)
 - e) SALVATION has NOTHING to do with EXTERNALS of THIS WORLD

E. Next week: Finish “THE PERSON YOU MUST BE”

1. Character
2. Holy Women before you.

F. Then “THE PROCESS GOD MAY USE” to save husband.

G. THEN - Husbands who have unsaved wives!

III. CONCLUSION

A. Peter continues to hammer on BEHAVIOR in witnessing

1. Teaching to wives is SIMPLY an APPLICATION of 2:11-12

11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul (extreme external adornments). 12 Keep your behavior excellent (submissive, in fear, holy, ...) among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation (won without a word as they observe...)

B. “WHAT YOU ARE DOING is DROWNING OUT WHAT YOU ARE SAYING...”

C. someone who’s actions don’t match their words = HYPOCRITE!

1. Peter already told us to PUT ASIDE ALL FORMS OF HYPOCRISY! (2:1)
2. Here telling the wife HOW TO AVOID HYPOCRISY!
3. So, if you’ve been putting aside hypocrisy since 2:1, 3:1 would be a specific application to you!

D. IF you have an unsaved husband – there is much here to study, meditate, take to prayer and to apply.

E. IF NOT – go back to 2:11-12 and Take the GENERAL FORM of this TO STUDY, PRAYER, AND APPLICATION THIS WEEK!

F. AND if you ARE THE UNSAVED HUSBAND – KNOW THAT GOD is USING EVERYONE AROUND YOU to bring YOU to salvation – let’s talk!