

## Winning an Unsaved Spouse's Salvation Part 2: The Unsaved Husband

### 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.

#### A. **Ancient wives...**

1. Peter's advice to wives is six times as long as that to husbands.
  - a) wife's position was far more difficult than that of the husband.
2. In ancient civilization, women had no rights at all.
  - a) A woman was a thing=Owned by her husband
  - b) Husband had the right of life and death over her

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

1. The PERSON you MUST be
2. The PROCESS God MAY use

#### 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
  - b) Peter begins –
    - (1) 1<sup>st</sup> class conditional - *so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word,*
    - (2) ="So that SINCE you have SOME husbands disobedient to the word!"
  - c) Husbands are called "disobedient to the word"= UNSAVED
    - (1) Peter uses the word 3 other times in letter – ALL meaning unsaved
      - (a) 1 Peter 2:88 and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed.
        - (i) Exact Same phrase!

(b) 1 Peter 3:20

20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through *the water*.

(c) 1 Peter 4:17

17 For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

- (2) “disobedient” is a STRONG word = OPEN and ACTIVE hostility to the gospel
- (3) Disobedient to “THE WORD” = gospel (articular).
- (4) Peter is describing a home situation exactly like 1 Peter 2:6-8!
- 1 Peter 2:6-8 6 For *this* is contained in Scripture: “BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER *stone*, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.” 7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, “THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER *stone*,” 8 and, “A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed.
- d) A home where the wife considers Christ a precious value and the husband violently rejects Him!
- e) 3<sup>rd</sup> way Peter tells wife to behave in submission to husband:
- (1) Wife of unsaved husband being told:
- (a) 2:11-12 Abstain from fleshly lusts AND Keep your behavior excellent (godly behavior)
- (b) 2:13 Submit to the human institution of marriage
- (c) 2:21-25 Follow the example of Christ who submitted to unsaved authorities – you were called for this purpose!
- (d) 3:1 Submit to your own UNSAVED husband!

## II. REVIEW: 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) 1 Peter 2:13-3:7
- (1) 2:13 Submit yourselves...
- (2) 2:18 Servants, be submissive
- (3) 3:1 ...

2. "be submissive to your own husbands"

a) "be submissive"

- (1) Do things his way!
- (2) RELINGUISH YOUR INDEPENDENT RIGHTS TO HIS ORDAINED AUTHORITY
  - (a) Voluntary SELFLESSNESS & DEPENDENCE
- (3) CONTINUOUSLY – Wives, LET your LIVES be CHARACTERIZED by Submissiveness
- (4) Husband has the final authority UNLESS he is telling you to SIN!
- (5) REMEMBER – this is A ROLE, NOT INFERIORITY

b) "so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word," = UNSAVED

<b>C. Conduct</b>
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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
  - (1) 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) Peter – BEHAVIOR!

2. 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

- a) Peter begins to DESCRIBE the submissive behavior that may win a husband.
- b) Best way to transliterate 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?-TO GOD!
  - (2) TO ALL READERS: 1 Peter 1:15-17 Be Holy!
  - (3) Here: IMMEDIATELY defines behavior as RESPONSIBLE TO A HIGHER AUTHORITY – GOD.
  - (4) Peter: FEAR ONLY GOD for JUDGING ONGOING SIN IN THIS LIFE that takes you OFF the path of HOLINESS.
- e) "Chaste (Pure/holy) behavior"
  - (1) Another major theme of Peter!
  - (2) Root for "Be Holy" in 1:15-16

(3) Here: “chaste” is grammatically tied to “in fear”

(a) = chaste/holy behavior that arises out of fear of God.

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

a) Peter – External adornment WILL NOT win their SALVATION.- AVOID EXTREME adornment.

(1) braiding the hair = “enweaving the hair” = elaborate gathering of hair into knots, as well as using golden combs and nets in the hair”

(2) wearing gold jewelry = “putting around” = a woman’s body covered with jewelry

(3) or putting on dresses; = “the practice of appearing in a great variety of dresses

**D. Character (v.4)**

1 Peter 3:4 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.

1. “but” = Strong contrasts of Adornments!

(1) Worldly things you put on (v.3) vs. your Person (v.4)

(2) Adorn yourself NOT with Externals (v.3) BUT with your character - the Hidden person of the heart – imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit (v.4)

(3) Don’t let your adornment be merely the things you put on your body but let him see first and foremost – a woman of character from deep within – with an imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit.

(4) APPEARANCE vs. CHARACTER

2. “hidden person of the heart” - what is this?

a) = the inner person.

b) Peter knew the words of Jesus: Matthew 12:34-36 “You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. 35 “The good man brings out of *his* good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of *his* evil treasure what is evil. 36 “But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

c) = (Michaels) “who that person is, at the deepest and most private level and for Christian wives, the wellspring of their true beauty.”

d) IS a heart CHANGED by GOD

(1) It is precious in His sight

(2) Is GODLY gentleness and quietness that is imperishable

(3) Marks her as like the Holy Women of former times!

3. with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit,

a) imperishable quality

(1) Peter called imperishable

(a) Our Inheritance (1:4)

(b) The blood of Jesus in our redemption (1:18)

(2) NOTE – all the external adornments above ARE PERISHABLE!

(3) Means = Godliness = with a godly gentle and quiet spirit

(a) that which is imperishable is of God

b) gentle and quiet spirit

(1) spirit

(a) = inner disposition of the wife

(b) = inner heart attitude

(c) Not Holy Spirit

(2) Gentle

(a) Considerate, kindly in disposition, amiable, tender.

(b) Not harsh or severe

(3) Quiet as opposed to noisy!

c) Picture

(1) Not a mouse who is a shadow of her husband

(a) Smiles but doesn't talk...

(b) Never know she's there...

(c) That's still EXTERNAL ADORNMENT!

(2) IS an interacting, active person whose character is one characterized by gentleness / quietness

(a) Softness

(b) Peacefulness

(c) Considerateness

(d) All seen IN ACTIONS!

d) Peter is DESCRIBING THE CHARACTER of SUBMISSIVENESS

(1) A SUBMISSIVE wife is seen as ONE whose ADORNMENT is an INNER PERSON SHINING FORTH in GODLY GENTLE and QUIET CHARACTER.

4. which is precious in the sight of God.

a) VERY IMPORTANT phrase for a WIFE in THIS POSITION!

b) HUSBAND MAY NOT NOTICE or SHOW APPRECIATION for this godly CHARACTER in the face of his VIOLENT OPPOSITION to the GOSPEL!

c) BUT GOD DOES NOTICE!

d) HE calls her SUBMISSIVE CHARACTER "PRECIOUS!"

e) "Precious"

(1) word usually was used just as it is today! - FOR THINGS of WORLDLY VALUE! -----PRECIOUS JEWELRY!

(2) Peter COMPLETES the CONTRAST by choosing this word!

(a) World calls external adornment of jewelry, etc PRECIOUS

(b) GOD calls the godly character of the INNER PERSON PRECIOUS!

- (3) Compound word beginning with “much, great” = VERY PRECIOUS = GREAT PRECIOUSNESS
- (4) God calls PRECIOUS that which is IMPERISHABLE – the godly character seen in a gentle and quiet spirit
- (5) The world calls PRECIOUS that which perishes – hair, jewelry, dresses.
- (6) Extremely rich verses in 3-4!

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

### ***E. Holy Women before you.***

1 Peter 3:5-6 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.

1. Peter – I’m not telling you ANYTHING NEW!
2. “For in this way” = ties back to EVERYTHING in v.1-4 = SUBMISSIVE wife with CONDUCT and CHARACTER as described
  - a) = IDENTIFIES this as ILLUSTRATION
  - b) NOT as DOCTRINE
  - c) ILLUSTRATION does not HAVE to TIE OUT EVERY DETAIL of the DOCTRINAL passage
  - d) Hence, ILLUSTRATION
    - (1) FOCUSES on OT SAVED women
    - (2) NOT on the STATE of their HUSBANDS!
    - (3) Doesn’t VIOLATE the TEACHING to BELIEVING WIVES with UNBELIEVING husbands.
3. in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God
  - a) OT woman saints
  - b) holy women = those who hoped in God!
    - (1) Believers
  - c) NOT focusing on women of EXTREME HOLINESS
    - (1) FOCUSING on SAVED OT WOMEN
  - d) Hoped in God = continuously believed in God = idiom for belief
4. “used to adorn themselves.” = Peter continues the “adornment” metaphor

5. How did they adorn themselves? [being submissive to their own husbands:](#)
- Ties all the way back up to v.1 and includes all the description in between.
  - SO – YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS! 😊
6. [6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord.](#)
- Let's get specific! Sarah and Abraham!
  - ["obeyed"](#)
    - Switches from SUBMISSION to OBEDIENCE!
    - Interesting: Abraham "obeyed" God!  
[Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.](#)
    - Subtle pointer to the non-believer aspect of the husband
      - "obedience" is never used in the NT between believers – hence, not in any husband-wife passages
      - CERTAINLY a SYNONYM for submission BUT is not a TERM/WORD used in Scripture between Christians.
      - Can't build a theology from this but there are these tags throughout this passage that keep us on the unsaved husband focus.
    - Synonym that focuses more on specific action than the underlying attitude.
    - When is Peter referring to?
      - Much discussion
      - Best answer: refers to whole married life of Sarah and not one instance.
      - There is one instance in Gen 18:12 where she did call him "lord" – so there is an example.
      - BUT best to say her life was characterized by obedience
      - She's not an example to other wives if limited to one time in her life
      - Peter is teaching these wives to have a life characterized by obedience
  - [calling him lord.](#)
    - CONSTANTLY, CONTINUALLY, called him lord
    - IOW = quick illustration that she CONSTANTLY, CONTINUALLY, submitted / obeyed him.
    - Shows ATTITUDE/ACTIONS of COMPLETE submission
7. [and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.](#)
- [and you have become her children](#)
    - =Sarah is a valid, good example to you BECAUSE you became like her spiritually when you became Christian
    - "You came to have the SAME SPIRITUAL NATURE (child of Submission) as SARAH.

- (3) Same way that Abraham is spoken of as the Father of believers (Rom 4; Gal 3)
- (4) When you “do what is right” (obey God), YOU SHOW you are CHILDREN of SUBMISSION AS SARAH was.
- b) if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.
- (1) Peter now both EXPLAINS and gives PURPOSE to being Sarah’s children – children of Submission
- (2) “Christian wives are children of submission in that (explain) / for the purpose that (purpose clause) THEY DO GOOD and LET NOTHING FRIGHTEN THEM.
- c) “if you do what is right”
- (1) Same phrase we’ve seen over and over again in this section
- (2) V.20...But if <sup>a</sup>when you do what is right (+v.18, v.14, etc).
- (3) = DO WHAT IS RIGHT BY GOD’S STANDARD!
- d) without being frightened by any fear.
- (1) Women in this context HAVE MUCH TO FEAR
- (a) Remember – HUSBAND had POWER of life and death over them.
- (b) Today –UNSAVED Husbands aren’t BOUND to Scriptural principles – MUCH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- (2) Peter assures wives that God knows what they face – and they SHOULD NEVER, EVER be afraid of what HE MAY DO.
- (3) “any” = “not once, EVER” be afraid.
- (4) Peter has ALREADY TOLD her WHO TO FEAR – 3:2 FEAR GOD! (in fear behavior)
- e) Sum= Submission, AS SEEN in SARAH = ALWAYS obeying GOD, NEVER EVER fearing your husband.

### III. **“THE PROCESS GOD MAY USE” to save husband.**

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.

**A. JUST SEEN – Wives are to HAVE the UTMOST of GODLY / CHRISTLIKE behavior, right?**

**B. What is husband doing?**

1. being DISOBEDIENT to the WORD – Violently opposing the gospel, right?
2. OBSERVING BEHAVIOR

**C. As He observes WHO is he REALLY Seeing? Jesus Christ (that’s what Christ-like behavior means!)**

**D. IOW – the MORE Christ-like your behavior – the MORE of CHRIST he will see through you!**

**E. What scene is really being played out here?**

1 Peter 2:21-23 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, 22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

1. Who is the HUSBAND really PERSECUTING? Jesus Christ!
2. Who is the WIFE really following the example of? Jesus Christ?

**F. You know what Paul called this process?**

1. "The kindness of God leading you to repentance"

Romans 2:4-10 ...do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? ... 7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; 8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation...