

## Winning an Unsaved Spouse's Salvation 1 Peter 3:1-7 (Part 3)

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

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

### 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"
  - (1) RELINGUISH YOUR INDEPENDENT RIGHTS TO HIS ORDAINED AUTHORITY =Voluntary SELFLESSNESS & DEPENDENCE
  - (2) CONTINUOUSLY – Wives, LET your LIVES be CHARACTERIZED by Submissiveness
3. "so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word," = UNSAVED

#### 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.

- a) = Actions NOT words =CONDUCT!
- b) BEHAVIOR is STRONGEST EVANGELISTIC TOOL
- c) WHAT YOU DO > WHAT YOU SAY! =WORDS

2. Multiple aspects of CONDUCT here: In fear [of God], Pure / holy , Behavior, Not externals

3. 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. =LITERALLY “as they observe your in fear [of God] pure/holy behavior.
4. **Not externals:** 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.

#### **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) Adorn yourself NOT with Externals (v.3) BUT with your character
  - (2) APPEARANCE vs. CHARACTER
2. “hidden person of the heart” = the inner person.
3. with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit.
  - a) Means = Godliness =with a godly gentle and quiet spirit= inner heart attitude
    - (a) that which is imperishable is of God
  - b) Picture =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!
4. which is precious in the sight of God.
  - a) VERY IMPORTANT for 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) Calls her SUBMISSIVE CHARACTER “PRECIOUS!”
    - (1) Compound word beginning with “much, great” = VERY PRECIOUS = GREAT PRECIOUSNESS
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) ILLUSTRATION: Submission AS SEEN in OT Believing woman and SARAH

### **III. Winning an unsaved wife!**

1 Peter 3:7 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. The Condition to winning an unsaved wife's salvation (performance and prayers!)**

1. IF you perform as a husband God's way
2. THEN your prayers for your wife's salvation will not be hindered

#### **B. IF you perform as a husband God's way – 2 Parts**

##### **1. Live in an understanding way**

a) You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman;

(1) Peter goes right after the WAY HUSBANDS TREAT THEIR WIVES!

(2) In this culture, HOW COULD they treat their wives?

- (a) ANY WAY they WANTED
- (b) To DEATH
- (c) OWNED THEM AS THINGS

(3) How did most TREAT their wives?

(a) HORRIBLY

(4) She was entirely subject to her husband -

- (a) Beat his wife to death when he found her drinking
- (b) Dismissed his wife because she appeared in the streets without a veil.
- (c) Divorced his wife because he saw her secretly speaking to a freed woman in public.
- (d) Divorced his wife because once she went to the public games.
- (e) 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?"

- (5) SO – Peter says – TREAT YOUR WIFE GOD’S WAY!
- (a) Show her a life that will stand in ABSOLUTE, STARK, CONTRAST to the world around you!
  - (b) Show her HOW A CHRISTIAN TREATS his wife!
  - (c) PETER – CONSISTENTLY GOING AFTER OUR CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR in front of an unsaved world.
- b) You husbands in the same way,
- (1) “Same way”
    - (a) as all Christians submitting to human institutions
    - (b) as all Christians in slave/employee situations
    - (c) as wives with unsaved husbands, slaves
    - (d) =ALL CHRISTIANS
      - (i) in AN UNSAVED WORLD,
      - (ii) whose LIVES are to WITNESS to the UNSAVED
  - (2) = HUSBAND WITH AN UNSAVED WIFE
  - (3) In fact – another way to tell you are in the same Section =
    - (a) Look at 3:8!
    - (b) “To sum up”
    - (c) Sum up what? 2:11-3:7!
    - (d) = RELATIONSHIPS with the UNSAVED.
  - (4) Peter PULLS ALL the CONTEXT from 2:11 FORWARD
    - (a) with “LIKEWISE”
    - (b) with ANOTHER PARTICIPLE to be subordinate to “SUBMIT”
      - (i) However – though subordinate
      - (ii) NOT the SAME –
        - (a) *All SUBMIT to human institutions (2:13)*
        - (b) *All SUBMIT to Employers/Masters (2:18)*
        - (c) *Wives Submit to Husbands (3:1)*
      - (iii) Husbands NOT told to SUBMIT to wives!
        - (a) *SUBMIT to Human Institution of Marriage (2:13)*
        - (b) *BUT instead of submitting to wife they...*
- c) “live with your wives
- (1) present, continual “dwelling”
  - (2) Encompasses YOUR LIFE WITH YOUR WIFE.
  - (3) = YOUR MARRIED LIFE
  - (4) Husbands, LIVE OUT YOUR MARRIAGE...
- d) “in an understanding way”
- (1) Literally “according to knowledge”
  - (2) = spiritual knowledge!

- (3) KNOWN ONLY TO THE SAVED!
- (4) Husbands – TREAT YOUR WIFE as A CHRISTIAN HUSBAND should
- (5) ACCORDING TO THE SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE you HAVE from GOD’S TEACHING TO YOU!
- (6) = understanding (NAS word), correct insight, truth properly comprehended and applied through a diligent study and pursuit of truth in the Word of God.
- (7) “UNDERSTANDING WAY” = KNOWLEDGE INTERNALIZED and APPLIED
- (8) Some examples of this form of the word knowledge:
- (a) Luke 1:77 - Zacharias (John the Baptist’s Father) prophecy says the baby Jesus Christ had Come...
- 77 To give to His people **the** knowledge of salvation By the forgiveness of their sins,*
- (b) 1 Corinthians 13:2
- 2 If I have **the gift of** prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.*
- (i) ALL SPIRITUAL knowledge
- (c) 2 Peter 1:5-6 Talking about our Lord Jesus Christ
- 5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in **your** moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in **your** knowledge, self-control, and in **your** self-control, perseverance, and in **your** perseverance, godliness,*
- (i) KNOWLEDGE of the TRUTH from THE WORD of GOD
- (9) SO – You husbands, live with your unsaved wives as a Christian husband has been taught to live with His wife – GOD’S WAY ACCORDING to KNOWLEDGE APPLIED FROM THE WORD OF GOD.
- e) *You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman;*
- (1) Literally – “as a weaker vessel – the wife”
- (a) COMPARATIVE TERM! “weaker”
- (i) IMPLICATION – MEN ARE WEAK!
- (ii) Woman are MERELY WEAKER!
- (iii) If ALL of us are WEAK – Who is STRONG? GOD ALONE!
- (b) Key to understanding – word “VESSEL”
- (i) USED in Scripture as a physical object
- (ii) Relating to persons = physical body.
- (iii) Here – setup appositionally to “the wife”
- (c) Relating to the husband’s role –

- (i) REMEMBER SHE NEEDS A PHYSICAL HEAD PROTECTOR AND PROVIDER.
- (ii) AND subtle reminder that HUSBAND IS WEAK TOO. – TYING BACK to “ACCORDING to KNOWLEDGE”

**2. 2<sup>nd</sup> PART of performing as a husband God's way:**

- a) and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life.
  - (1) “and” is not there. SHOWS the Interpretive choice here!
    - (a) Are there two commands?
      - (i) Live with her in an understanding way?
      - (ii) Show her honor?
    - (b) OR ONE command: Live with her in an understanding way and this is DONE by giving her honor...
    - (c) NO Grammatical Reason to TIE TOGETHER, and ALSO, is a PURPOSE clause that STANDS at end of the Verse, soooooo...
  - (2) “AND” is appropriate – hence, 2<sup>nd</sup> command is to SHOW HER HONOR as a fellow heir of the grace of life.
- b) show her honor
  - (1) “show” = distribute to her , assign her (some translations: “give her”)
  - (2) “Honor” = high respect = esteem her
  - (3) WHY honor her?
- c) as a fellow heir of the grace of life.
  - (1) as a fellow heir
    - (a) Peter says you and her have something in common! =“fellow heirs”
    - (b) You have both inherited FROM GOD
  - (2) the grace of life.
    - (a) Literally: “the grace that consists of life”
    - (b) What is “grace”?
      - (i) UNMERITED FAVOR
      - (ii) For what?
      - (iii) GRACE pertains to our guilt before God as sinners
      - (iv) MERCY pertains to our pitiful condition before God as sinners.
    - (c) Notice – DOESN'T say ETERNAL LIFE
    - (d) LIFE itself IS GRACE from GOD
      - (i) We deserve death
      - (ii) He could've ended it all after Adam and Eve sinner
      - (iii) WAGES of SIN is DEATH
      - (iv) He choose to judge through SPIRITUAL DEATH alone
      - (v) Let Earthly LIFE continue SO THAT His plan of REDEMPTION could be carried out.

- d) Peter – YOU HAVE BOTH been GIVEN a GRACE CONSISTING of LIFE
  - e) What is ONE of the GREATEST BLESSINGS in this LIFE? MARRIAGE!
  - f) Show her GREAT RESPECT and HONOR as BOTH of YOU have been GIVEN a GRACE of LIFE and MARRIED LIFE from GOD.
3. Putting it all together: CHRISTIAN HUSBAND – you are in an ESPECIALLY UNIQUE POSITION regarding the UNSAVED
- a) 1 Peter 2:11-12
    - 11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. 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 – I've already told you – HUSBAND-
    - (a) Abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul
    - (b) Keep your behavior excellent among the unsaved so that they observe you and come to salvation
  - b) Yes - Submit to every human institution, Submit to your employer AND
  - c) YOU are in a UNIQUE ROLE OVER your UNSAVED WIFE.
    - (1) TREAT her GOD's WAY for CHRISTIAN HUSBANDS to treat their wife
      - (a) IN AN UNDERSTANDING WAY
        - (i) According to KNOWLEDGE you have SPIRITUALLY
        - (ii) REMEMBER SHE NEEDS A PHYSICAL HEAD PROTECTOR AND PROVIDER – AS a weaker vessel.
        - (iii) WITH a subtle reminder that YOU are WEAK too.
      - (b) GIVE HER HONOR as both of you have been given grace that consists of this life.
    - (2) Give her the BEST LIFE has to OFFER
      - (a) = BEING TREATED as a CHRISTIAN HUSBAND treats HIS WIFE!

**C. THEN your prayers for your wife's salvation will not be hindered**

v.7 end: 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.

- 1. “so that” = PURPOSE = THEN in our CONDITIONAL STATEMENT
  - a) IF you perform as a husband God's way
  - b) THEN your prayers for your wife's salvation will not be hindered
- 2. “your prayers will not be hindered”
  - a) WHAT is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT prayer he would have?
  - b) FOR THE SALVATION of His WIFE!
- 3. IMPLICATION – IF you don't PERFORM as a HUSBAND GOD'S WAY, You will be HINDERING YOUR OWN PRAYERS!
  - a) This SHOULD be OBVIOUS!

- b) WILL YOUR PRAYER be SINCERE if you AREN'T willing to do EVERYTHING POSSIBLE from your PART???
- c) When SOMEONE says THEY WANT SOMETHING and DOESN'T SHOW EFFORT towards it – DO THEY REALLY WANT it?
4. “hindered” = “to cut into or break up (as in breaking up a road)”
- a) [Psalm 66:16-20](#)  
 16 Come *and* hear, all who fear God, And I will tell of what He has done for my soul. 17 I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. 18 If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear; 19 But certainly God has heard; He has given heed to the voice of my prayer. 20 Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer Nor His lovingkindness from me.
- b) [James 5:16](#)  
 ...The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.
5. Look right below v.7!
- 1 Peter 3:8-12  
 8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. 10 For, “THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. 11 “HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. 12 “FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL.”
- a) SAME PRINCIPLE
- (1) V.12 – GOD is watching for the prayers of the righteous
- (2) PRAYERS here – SUPPLICATIONS, REQUESTS (not praise, thanks, etc.)
- (a) Word means “THE ACT OF PLEADING, BEGGING!”
- (3) God’s face has to do with judgment - Instead of answering your prayers, if you do evil, God will be coming with chastening!
6. Also implied here – A CHRISTIAN HUSBAND PRAYS FOR THE SALVATION OF HIS WIFE!!! - Should be obvious!

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

##### **A. Peter is consistently consistent!**

1. Our side: DO RIGHT! LIVE RIGHT! BEHAVIOR! - LIFE LONG!
2. God’s side: He changes HEARTS, ANSWERS PRAYERS and WANTS TO use US!

##### **B. Peter – ALL about LIVING in AN UNSAVED world**

1. LEAVES NO ASPECT of LIFE untouched!

##### **C. GOD WANTS US TO LIVE EXEMPLARY CHRISTIAN LIVES**

1. In this unsaved world
2. Amidst persecution and suffering
3. In whatever roles he has put us in!