

The Beauty God Values in a Christian Woman

1 Peter 3:3-6

Introduction

Steven Cole: "It's tough enough to teach about the submission of wives to godly husbands. But to teach that wives should submit even to husbands who are not interested in Christian virtue seems insensitive and potentially cruel."

Biblical submission does not mean you agree with everything and never challenge anything your husband does or says.

You have the spouse you need and while he or she still needs to grow in many ways, you need to stay focused on what the Lord wants you to work on in your own attitudes and conduct.

That is the other aspect of **duty** for a Christian woman.

Purity and reverence are cornerstone qualities of a maturing Christian woman.

Submission, purity, and reverence are qualities of such confirmation to the truth of the gospel that they can draw an unsaved husband to Christ and salvation without the need for constant words of witness.

1. Beauty that should not be the priority of a Christian woman, verse 3.

A. This is not a censure of "the woman's touch".

B. This is a warning against preoccupation with outward "adornment".

"Elaborate hairstyles", jewelry, and expensive clothes.

Not prohibition of tastefully enhanced appearance.

2. Beauty that should be the priority of a Christian woman, verse 4.

The beauty that derives from the practice of purity and reverence.

A. The Gentle spirit

Jesus was gentle (Matthew 11:29)

Gentleness and meekness translate the same Greek word.

Galatians 5:23; 6:1.

Gentleness or meekness is strength under control.

A gentle wife is not pushy or selfishly assertive. She handles her husband and children with care and tenderness, and does so out of strength of devotion to God and to her family.

B. The Quiet Spirit

Psalm 131

A woman who possesses quietness of soul may still exude confidence in her role and abilities. But she does not need to prove anything. She is secure in the Lord and at peace with His calling on her life.

God has not made a wife responsible for her husband's salvation and spirituality. That is God's job and only within His power.

C. The Valued Spirit

The gentle and quiet spirit in a Christian woman is valued by God.

Valuable because it requires trust in God.

Valuable because it builds harmony in marriages and families.

3. Beauty that will not fade, verse 4.

Like the imperishable heavenly inheritance that comes with our salvation, 1:4; and the imperishable word of God that implants new life in us.

The inner beauty of the gentle and quiet spirit is imperishable.

It will not fade and cannot be taken away.

As a woman's soul matures in Christ, so does the beauty of the radiance of Christ's presence in her.

4. The Beauty of holy Women, verses 5-6.

They put their hope in God.

They submitted to their husbands.

Sarah was their inspiration (verse 6). See Genesis 12:10-20 and 20:1-18.

They faced their fears with active goodness.

Concluding Questions:

1) Must a wife submit to an abusive husband?

2) Must a wife submit to a husband who asks her to do something wrong?

3) Can a wife be submissive yet confront her husband's sin?