

1 **THE POWER OF A FEARLESS AND FEARFUL WIFE**

1 Peter 3:1-6

2 **I'D RATHER HAVE JESUS**

George Beverly Shea's signature song

- Martin Ross loved alcohol more than anything else
- Wife Bertha prayed for him and faithfully served him for many years
- Martin was finally born again and became pastor of a Baptist church in Brooktondale NY
- At age 28, his daughter Rhea wrote a poem about her changed father's life

3 **1 Peter 3:1-6**

In the same way, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some are disobedient to the word, they may be won over without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful, pure conduct. Let your adornment not be the external kind, braiding hair and putting on gold jewelry or putting on fine clothing, but the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is highly valuable in the sight of God.

4 **1 Peter 3:1-6**

For in the same way formerly the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves by being subject to their own husbands, like Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose children you have become when you do good and are not frightened with respect to any terror.

5 **Likewise...**

- 1 Peter 2:11-13 – *Dear friends, I urge you as foreigners and temporary residents to abstain from fleshly desires which wage war against your soul, maintaining your good conduct among the Gentiles, so that in the things in which they slander you as evildoers, by seeing your good deeds they may glorify God on the day of visitation. Subject yourselves to every human authority for the sake of the Lord, whether to a king as having supreme authority, or to governors as those sent out by him for the punishment of those who do evil and the praise of those who do good.*
- Example #1 -- Government

6 **Likewise...**

- 1 Peter 2:18-20 -- *Domestic slaves, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unjust. For this finds favor, if because of consciousness of God someone endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this finds favor with God.*
- Example #2 – Servants with ungodly masters

7 **... and the ultimate example**

1 Peter 2:21-24 -- *For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his footsteps, who did not commit sin, nor was deceit found in his mouth, who when he was reviled, did not revile in return; when suffering, he did not threaten, but entrusted himself to the one who judges justly, who himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we may die to sins and live to righteousness, by whose wounds you were healed.*

8 **Scope of a wife's submission**

- To her own husband
 - Not to every man
- Every area of authority has a scope

- We're ALL to obey government when it does not conflict with Christ's rule over our lives
- Servants are to obey their masters, but not other masters
- We're to obey the pastors of our church
- Scope specifics – Titus 2:3 (which older women are to teach the younger)

9 Titus 2:3

- *The aged women likewise, (are to be) in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*
 - Self-control, recognizing the seriousness of life = sober
 - Love their husbands (respecting them)
 - Love their children
 - Be discreet
 - Be faithful
 - Be good keepers of the home
 - Be obedient to their husbands as long as they first obey Christ

10 A wife in exile

- She is a Christian in a non-Christian society – exiled socially
- She is married to a man who does "not obey the word" – exiled within her own marriage; married to a man who does not have a relationship with Jesus Christ
 - 1 Peter 2:7-8 -- *Therefore the honor is for you who believe, but for those who refuse to believe, "The stone that the builders rejected, this one has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense," who stumble because they disobey the word to which also they were consigned.*
 - Disobey the word = unbeliever

11 1 Peter 4:17

- *For it is the time for the judgment to begin out from the household of God. But if it begins out from us first, what will be the outcome for those who are disobedient to the gospel of God?*
- Those who disobey the Gospel are not in the household or family of God
- So those who disobey the Word is a reference to unbelievers
- So the wife in 1 Peter 3:1-6 is married to an unbeliever (someone who has not received Christ as Savior)

12 Why is a Christian woman married to a lost man?

- Early days of the Christian church
 - Pagan woman receives Christ before husband
- Today, we know better:
 - Christians are not to unequally yoke themselves with an unbeliever
 - 2 Corinthians 6:14 -- *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*
 - But even now, it still happens because people focus on the wrong things when they are dating, or they are in a hurry

13 A winning conduct

- 1 Peter 2:12 -- *maintaining your good conduct among the Gentiles, so that in the things in which they slander you as evildoers, by seeing your good deeds they may glorify God on the day of*

visitation.

- 1 Peter 3:1-2 -- *In the same way, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some are disobedient to the word, they may be won over without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful, pure conduct.*

14 **A specific instance of a general principle**

- Peter gives multiple examples of how our godly conduct is a tool to bring others to receive Jesus as their Savior
 - 1 Peter 2:11-12 – Our conduct among the Gentiles should lead them to glorify God when the Holy Spirit works on their hearts
 - 1 Peter 2:13-15 – Our conduct in society should silence the opposition of foolish men.
 - 1 Peter 2:18-20 – Our conduct in our employment should please and glorify God
- In 1 Peter 3:5-6, godly women trusted in God and therefore were not afraid. We should all want that.

15 **Can someone be won to Christ without a word?**

- 1 Peter 1:23-25 -- *because you have been born again, not from perishable seed but imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For "all flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of the grass. The grass withers and the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that has been proclaimed to you.*
- Just as you have two physical parents, you must have two spiritual parents: The Word of God + the Spirit of God

16 **What words must you understand?**

- It is clear from 1 Peter 1:23-25 and many other passages that you must know and believe certain facts to become a Christian:
 - You are a sinner (Romans 3:23)
 - Your sin separates you from God (Romans 3:10)
 - Christ loved you and died to pay the penalty for your sins (Romans 5:8)
 - By receiving Him you become a Christian and are assured of spending eternity with God (Romans 6:23)

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18 **So, what does "won without a word" mean?**

- The husband must know what the wife believes:
 - That we are all sinners
 - That sin separates us from God
 - That Jesus Christ – who had no sin – died for our sins
 - That we must receive Him into our hearts and ask Him to save us
- But he is won without:
 - an excessive word
 - a nagging word
 - a pressured or manipulative word
 - his wife being "preachy"

19 **Respectful (3:2)**

- KJV -- *While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.*
- LEB -- *when they see your respectful, pure conduct.*

- Literally "in fear," but of whom?
 - 1 Peter 2:17 (LEB) -- *Honor all people, love the community of believers, fear God, honor the king.*
 - 1 Peter 2:17 (KJV) *Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.*
 - 1 Peter 1:17 -- *And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's work, conduct yourselves with fear during the time of your temporary residence*

20 Proverbs 31:30

- KJV -- *Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: But a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.*
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- LEB -- *Charm is deceit and beauty is vain; but a woman who fears Yahweh shall be praised.*
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- Fear God, conduct yourself with purity toward all, especially your spouse
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21 She is NOT to be fearful of her husband

- 1 Peter 3:6 -- *like Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose children you have become when you do good and are not frightened with respect to any terror.*
 - Here it says that a wife should be FEARLESS
 - Why? Because 1 Peter 3:5 says she hopes in God. That makes you fearless.
 - She should NOT live in fear of her husband; her godly behavior can protect her from her ungodly husband
 - No wife, however, should remain in a dangerously abusive situation
- Note to men: We are not to command authority by instilling fear, but by earning respect!

22 Jesus is a woman's supreme Master

- Her reverence and submission to Christ makes her a PURE and TRUSTWORTHY wife of great value to her husband.
- She does not need to badger her husband to receive Christ.
 - He knows what she believes
 - He sees that what she believes is validated by how she behaves

23 Clarifying submission

- Here we see that the wife is to be in submission to her husband
- But we are also command to be subject to one another:
 - Ephesians 5:21 -- being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ
 - Does this mean that in some way men are to be subject to their wives?
- How do you do both?

24 Proverbs 6:20-23

- *My son, keep thy father's commandment, And forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, And tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; When thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; And when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; And reproofs of instruction are the way of life:*
- Father's commandment = lamp = source of light = general principles
- Mother's law = light = structure or rules to carry out the father's principles

25 Example: Order in the home

- Father's commandment = Avoid and eliminate clutter

- Mother's law
 - Kitchen: Glasses go in this cabinet; plates go in this cabinet
 - General:
 - The stairs are not your closet; take things to your room
 - We don't leave our shoes by the front door; take them to your room
 - At 8:30 p.m., please clean the kitchen so we can start with it clean tomorrow
- A husband can establish an overarching principle for order in the home, but he should not tell his wife how to organize the kitchen – that isn't his domain
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26 **Example: Home education**

- Father's commandment: Provide godly character-based education to our children
- Mother's law:
 - Arise at 6:30
 - Be dressed and in the living room by 7:15
 - Dad will have devotional at 7:15
 - After breakfast and cleanup:
 - Johnny practices piano
 - Sue works on math
 - After lunch, everyone works on writing assignment

27 **Marriage and family need order**

- But order must follow a proper structure
- The man is not supposed to manage every detail of how the house is run or organize
 - He needs to focus on work and ministry
 - He needs to focus on how to love his wife and children
 - He needs to focus on the character qualities of Psalm 15
- He may need to encourage his wife or provide course correction if the general principles of the family are not being followed
- But he should not micro-manage

28 **The wife is to carry out the husband's principles**

- As long as they do not violate Scripture
- She should implement rules, schedules, and routines to make sure the husband's goal for the family and home are being met
- She should lovingly appeal wrong decisions
 - How does this affect his reputation?
 - How does this affect his long-term goals?
 - What has he heard from the Lord? (Treat your husband as a spiritual leader even if he isn't acting like one.)

29 **Outside beauty is the wrong focus**

- Outward adornment
 - Braided hair
 - Gold jewelry
 - Costly clothing

30 **Guidelines for outward adornment**

- While there are no specific prohibitions here, Peter emphasizes an external beauty that reflects the inner beauty of a godly woman:
 - Hair
 - Hair should be beautiful and please your husband
 - It should reflect order instead of an explosion in a toothpick factory
 - It should not be highly artificial or unfeminine
 - Jewelry – not a gaudy or lavish display
 - Clothing
 - Not conspicuous or extravagant
 - Should be modest
 - Should call attention to her countenance
 - Should not be worldly

31 **Emphasizing externals reveals internal weakness**

- *A person ought to be bigger than any consideration of outward decoration. One can dress up a fence post. If one finds it necessary to depend upon either physical beauty or clothing in order to make a favorable impression upon others, that fact shows that that person realizes his lack of those personal and spiritual qualities that make a virile Christian character.* – Kenneth Wuest

32 **Inner beauty is the REAL beauty**

- A meek spirit (one that voluntarily yields rights) – not given to anger
- A quiet spirit (one free from worry) – when you don't trust your husband, you really aren't trusting God

33 **Matthew 11:29 -- Meekness**

- KJV -- *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*
- LEB -- *Take my yoke on you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*
- Christ demonstrated meekness by not demanding the right to be worshiped, but giving His life for you.
- Peter tells women that their truest source of beauty is to be like Christ!

34 **Quietness**

- 1 Thessalonians 4:11 -- *and to aspire to live a quiet life, and to attend to your own business, and to work with your hands, just as we commanded you,*
- 2 Thessalonians 3:12 -- *Now we command and we exhort such people in the Lord Jesus Christ that, working with quietness, they eat their own bread.*
- Quietness = to have a tranquil disposition free from inner turmoil that causes disturbances in the marriage, family, or community
 - Requires trust
 - Recognizes that anger is sin

35 **You have examples**

- Sarah revered her husband and called him "lord" or "master"
 - That is, she recognized him as the head of her household
 - She worked to carry out his principles in the daily life of the family
 - She had her hope in God
- You have other examples, don't you?

- Your pastor's wife
- My wife
- Godly mothers and grandmothers right here in our church

36 Follow those examples!

- LEB -- 1 Peter 3:6 – *like Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose children you have become when you do good and are not frightened with respect to any terror.*
- KJV -- *Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.*
- Study the godly women of the Bible with pen and paper in hand; take notes
- Look at the godly examples that you have just in this church!

37 The real reason for it all

- Peter is in the middle of giving multiple examples of how we are to all be in submission
- But there is one overarching principle – spiritual warfare
- 1 Peter 3:18-21 -- *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, in order that he could bring you to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, who were formerly disobedient, when the patience of God waited in the days of Noah, while an ark was being constructed, in which a few—that is, eight souls—were rescued through water. And also, corresponding to this, baptism now saves you, not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ*

38 For all of us...

1. God wants us to each be under authority
2. God wants us to each be respectful of the domains of others
3. There is a power in submission that causes people to glorify God and to come to Jesus
4. There is a protection to those who are under authority
5. Worry is a symptom that we don't trust God to work through our authority
6. True beauty comes from a meek and quiet spirit