

Marriage in Exile Response Guide

1 Peter 3:1-7

Bethany Assembly of God

August 2, 2020

- Why do you think God created marriage? What's its purpose?
- How does the definition of marriage differ between the Kingdom of God and the world? What are the biggest points of divergence?

Big Idea: You should follow the example of Christ in your marriage.

1. Wives, you should submit to your husbands.

- Read 1 Peter 3:1-6. How do these verses initially strike you? Do they sound harsh and outdated?
- How do these verses differ from the advice of the world for women in marriage?
- To whom are these verses addressed? Is Peter instructing men to make women submit?
- What do you think "submit" or "be subject" means for wives in the context of marriage? (read Genesis 2:18 and Ephesians 5:22-24 for a bit more context) What does it look like practically?
- How does Peter tell wives to respond if their husbands are not Christians or if they aren't being respectable?
- Read verses 3-4 again. What is "adorning"? Is Peter saying that women shouldn't do their hair or wear makeup, jewelry, or nice clothes?
- What should a woman's primary "adorning" be?
- Does Peter's instruction for wives to have a gentle and quiet spirit strike you as sexist? Why?
- Read Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 4:5; 1 Thes. 2:7; 1 Timothy 3:1-3. What context and definition do these passages give for understanding a gentle and quiet spirit?

- How could these inner qualities not only instruct married women, but unmarried women?

2. Husbands, seek to understand and honor your wives. v. 7

- Read verse 7 again. What is the most striking feature of Peter's instruction to husbands?
- What does it mean to live with your wife in an understanding manner?

“The ‘knowledge’ Peter intends here may include any knowledge that would be beneficial to the husband-wife relationship: knowledge of God’s purposes and principles for marriage; knowledge of the wife’s desires, goals, and frustrations; knowledge of her strengths and weaknesses in the physical, emotional and spiritual realms; etc.” - Wayne Grudem

- How can you demonstrate this kind of understanding to your wife?
- What does it mean to honor your wife as the weaker vessel?
- In the Bible, is strength something to be taken advantage of or something to be used in service to others?
- How does Peter give teeth to his instruction to husbands? What are the consequences for not living with your wife in an understanding way and seeking to honor her?
- How do Peter's instructions relate to single men or those who are not married yet?

Conclusion

- Marriage is designed by God to help us grow in holiness and as an opportunity for us to be an example of God's love for the people who see our marriages. Is your marriage, or your ideals for a future marriage, pointing people to Jesus, or is it based on selfishness and mistrust?