

WON WITHOUT A WORD

1 Peter 3:1-7

WHY DO MARRIAGES FAIL? Howard & Jeanne Hendricks.

Three reasons for divorce:

1) improper choices 2) unrealistic expectations 3) inadequate preparation
"The care and feeding of romantic love has lifelong implications."
"Marriages may be made in heaven, but the maintenance work is done on earth."

Joe Aldrich quipped: "It's not until we've been married for a while that we learn: "A marriage license is just a learner's permit."

Call to good testimony in midst of suffering 2:11-4:11

Our hope should change our life, even in suffering.

Good deeds 2:11-12 –in general –fruit of hope.

Submission 2:13-3:7

Submission to authority in persecution demonstrates we're suffering for *God's* sake; and *not* for evil.

3 areas of authority identified:

Peter calls us to submission ...

In sphere of government 2:13-17

In sphere of work 2:18-25

As we consider specific areas of submission to authority,

Peter teaches us principles about submission in general:
2:13-17 When **WE** do what's right, regardless of what anyone else does, we silence our critics. v. 15

We submit to men as **slaves of God**. v. 16

2:18-25 WE are called to submit to those in authority, even when *they* abuse the authority God has given them.
v. 18

"This is grace!"

God's grace is revealed when WE suffer unjustly for doing right,

Our quiet suffering, unjustly, for doing right, may be means God uses to attract people to the Shepherd and Guardian. v. 21-25

No instructions addressed to those in authority in government or work.

Paul includes word about how people in authority use their authority under headship of God.

Under persecution, Peter *assumes* believers don't hold positions.

[3rd area where we demonstrate our hope by submitting to authority:]

SUBMISSION IN THE HOME 3:1-7

God's people should be marked by how they handle authority
God established in the home.

Godly marriage is something we must work at—husbands and wives.

A good marriage is hard work. It never “drops out of heaven” ready-made!

IMPLICATIONS FOR GODLY WIVES 3:1-6

THE COMMAND AFFIRMED 3:1a

“Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands”

*** Wives are to submit to their husband.**

LIFESTYLE EXPLAINED 3:1b-6

*** Convincing a rebellious (disobedient) husband 3:1b-2**

“Be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, [lit., “if they disobey the Word”] they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

"Disobedient" husbands are specifically mentioned.

=> Men who don't measure up to God's standard for whatever reason.

Might be obedience of faith as at salvation; or, obeying God in daily life.

Either way, a wife brings conviction to her husband by being all God wants her to be—by a gentle and quiet spirit.

Without a word!!!

- **"Wordless Winsomeness"**

Swindoll: "Some wives substitute secret manipulation for a quiet spirit"

This is manipulation; it comes from the flesh, not from the Spirit of God.

Wives are responsible for themselves, not their husbands.

Wives are to be sure they fulfill their role.

When women do their part, God may use their testimony to convince a husband of his need—sometimes a husband comes to Christ because of his wife's **"wordless winsomeness!"**

Christian woman often requested prayer for her husband; yet he remained the same. His wife had a violent temper. One day a friend spoke to her in love about her problem: "Ask God to give you victory over *your own* sin. Otherwise he'll never appreciate what God can do for him." She took the matter to the Lord. Yielding to Holy Spirit, she obtained power to conquer problem. A few days later her husband came home, brushed against a lamp in the hall. It swayed a moment, then fell to the floor. It was shattered. He waited apprehensively for an outburst, but was amazed when she said quietly, "Never mind, dear, it's all right; you couldn't help it. We'll just have to save up for another one." "What's come over you?" he exclaimed surprised. "I've asked the Lord to control my temper." He responded, "If God can do that for you, you'd better pray for me; that's the kind of religion I need!" Soon afterward he trusted Christ as His Savior.

They'll observe your:

- **Holy and respectful conduct**

"When they see the purity and reverence of your lives"

Her holy conduct is accompanied by proper respect.

No room here for a "holier than thou" attitude! That'll drive him away!

While she does that, he sits back to watch.

3:2 "See" => "Observe" => implies prolonged, careful, look.

"I wonder how long this will last!"

It may involve not-so-subtle tests to see how deep transformation is!

Cedar: "Several years ago, an attractive young wife came to Christ through of our church. Before that, she and husband were involved in an immoral lifestyle.

"... I shared verses and then suggested: 'At a proper time, tell your husband what happened to you. Tell him about the love and forgiveness of Christ and what a difference He's making in your life. Never mention another word about God or Christ until he asks or until the Holy Spirit prompts you to speak. In the meantime, live for Christ in all you do.'

"... 3 months later, I had the privilege of leading her husband to Christ. I asked him, 'What influenced you for Christ?' Without hesitation, he responded, 'My wife. Several weeks ago she told me how she had come to know Christ. She said she hoped I would also come to Christ, but she would not bug me. Whenever I had a question, she would share with me. She was a changed woman. She didn't nag or preach to me; she loved me! Whatever she has is what I want and need.'

[2nd element of the wife's transformed lifestyle:]

* **Wearing lavish outfits 3:3-4 [=> "infits"!]** *"Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. ⁴ Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."*

- **NOT outward adorning.**
- **"Dressing up the inside"**

Inner beauty, demonstrated by a gentle, submissive spirit, may convince the rebellious, disobedient husband.

Her "adornment" (= kosmos), root of "cosmetics"

Her cosmetics aren't the *external* kind, but the *internal* kind.

She makes herself attractive, not by physical dress,
but by internal beauty of spirit.

Roman women went to great lengths to dress up
elaborately.

They wore expensive outfits, for the purpose of
impressing one another and drawing attention to
themselves.

Wiersbe: Glamour

artificial and internal
can put on and take off
corruptible, decays and fades

True beauty

real and internal
always present
grows more wonderful with years

"A Christian woman who cultivates the beauty of the inner person
doesn't have to depend on cheap externals."

"Any husband is proud of a wife who is attractive,
but that beauty must come from the heart, not the store."

This is not a prohibition of wearing jewelry,
anymore than a prohibition of wearing dresses!

She ought to do best she can with what God gave her and what he
can provide.

However, she isn't to depend on that to attract her husband.
Isn't intended to discourage attractive dress.

There's beauty which is more significant: the beauty of the
inner person.

It's the beauty referred to in the old chorus:

"Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me,
All His wonderful passion and purity;
O Thou Spirit divine, all my nature refine,
'Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me!"

- **Gentle and quiet spirit**

Her submissive spirit will attract her husband.

Gentle = Meek => not weakness, power under control <=
tame horse

Quiet => still, at rest, peaceful

Pagan women pursue extravagant outfits.

Notice the word "*precious*" in the sight of God That's the word!
It's lavish and extravagant!

But it's lavish in eyes of the One Who understands ultimate value.

How do you look from the perspective of HIS spring catalogue?

*** Following worthy models 3:5-6 Sarah**

"For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, 6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him "master." [Lord] You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear."

We all need godly models, like Christ and Sarah.

Wiersbe: "I overheard a conversation about marital problems on a television soap serial ... When Christian couples imitate the world and get their standards from Hollywood instead of heaven, there'll be trouble in the home. If both partners imitate Christ in His submission and obedience, and His desire to serve others, there will be triumph and joy in the home."

- **"Daughters of Sarah"** Women who "look like their mother."
"Chip off the old block" They act like Sarah.

- **Calling him "Lord"**

Refers to Abraham as her "Lord" when he is promised a son in old age.

Not long after he asks her to go along with less than godly request.

- **Doing what is right without fear**

When we do what's right from God's perspective, we don't need to be "terrified with fear about anything"!

God will take care of the "daughters of Sarah"

[Not talking about wives in physical danger due to physical abuse.

Researchers estimate that approximately one of every two families is touched by abuse. As many as 25% of these are Christian families.

A Christian husband is *never* justified in using physical abuse. Godly wife isn't required to remain in physical abuse. It's against the law and protected by the State. If you're being physically abused, your husband is guilty of a crime. You aren't accountable for that, nor to blame for it.

IMPLICATIONS FOR GODLY HUSBANDS 3:7

"Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers."

Notice introduction: *"IN THE SAME WAY!"*

Women aren't the only ones required to submit.

Husbands' submission takes a different form, but it's still submission!

*** Fulfilling *physical* obligations–Spending time together**

He's to dwell with her.–PHYSICAL

That requires time at home! It's **"dwelling together with"** her.

One survey revealed that average husband and wife have 37 minutes a week together in actual communication.

Is it any wonder marriages fall apart?

*** Fulfilling *intellectual* obligations**

–Understanding her needs.

–*"be considerate" lit., "in an understanding way;" "according to knowledge"*

Wiersbe: Someone once asked Albert Einstein's wife if she understood his theory of relativity. Her reply: "No, but I understand the doctor."

It's amazing how two Christian people can live together for years and never get to know each other.

We need to know our wife's needs, feelings, dreams, fears, and desires.

That requires time and effort to hear her out.

Mark Littleton: God made men and women different. This creates conflict. Often our wife just wants us to listen to her, rather than analyze the problem or defend ourselves. Husbands often hear only words and not the undertones. She sees a difference between just talking, and talking about our relationship. She wants to know what we like about her—her opinions, her cooking, her figure. She wants to hear it over and over.”

Spouses sometimes expect each other to be mind readers, so a husband must listen closely to hear what his wife is really saying.

How? 1) Start with prayer.

2) Reassure her of your support.

3) Make an effort to understand how she feels.

4) Demonstrate love by really listening.

OUR LITTLE GAME—“I love you!” “WHY?” “The Bible commands me to!”

That never went over real well! I'm not sure why.

We need to learn how to disagree and still be happy together.

*** Fulfilling emotional obligations—Caring for a fragile vase**

“Treat them with respect as the weaker partner”

– “giving honor unto the wife”

=> “treat her as the finest china”

Wiersbe: *“The husband ought to treat his wife like an expensive, beautiful, fragile vase, in which is a precious treasure.”*

We usually start that way in dating and engagement, but “a funny thing happens on the way to the altar.”

We need to go back to that careful, gentle treatment.

*** Fulfilling spiritual obligations**

– Sharing as “fellow-heirs of grace.”

= “sharing as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life”

– “that your prayers be not hindered.”

Husbands shouldn't use this authority for selfish gain, nor abuse their wife.

Husbands ought to show consideration and respect for their wife.

If you aren't treating your wife properly, according to these 4 standards, YOU HAVE A SPIRITUAL PROBLEM!

EVEN PRAYING WON'T WORK FOR YOU!

Any wife would be pleased if her husband, instead of giving gifts on special occasions, would serve her each day a slice of Happiness Cake:

4 cups of love 4 tablespoons of thoughtfulness,
3 cups of understanding 3 teaspoons of helpfulness.

Sift together thoroughly, add appropriate amounts of work and play, season with security and mutual planning, and place in a well-greased pan with a sense of humor. When done, top it off with a thick coating of true spirituality and serve on a platter of friendliness garnished with smiles.

Wives—you stay out of this! This is between God and your husband.

You're NOT responsible for his failure.

I received a note I think concludes with the best summary of anything I could say to you about the importance of acting on what you have heard!

"THERE'S A SENSE OF FREEDOM AND PEACE IN JUST UNDERSTANDING GOD'S COMMANDS ... AND DOING THEM!"

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BE WORKING ON?

Husband, maybe you need to plan to spend a few extra hours at home with your wife this week.

Maybe you ought to sit down and write out 3 things you appreciate about your husband or wife. Then figure out a creative way to tell them.

Maybe you need to ask your mate to identify something you need to work on in your life to be more pleasing to your mate.

NOT to defend yourself, but to allow God to work on transforming it.

Maybe you just need to go back to the good old days, and write a love letter!

WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP YOU NEED TO TAKE?

Plan NOW to do something about it!