

“A Word to Husbands (And a Few More for Wives)”

1 Peter 3:1-7 – Living Hope Series – Joshua Harris – July 18, 2010

A Word to Wives (verses 1-6)

1. What Does It Mean To Be Submissive? (verses 1-6)

- a. To Your Own Husband – Women are not told to submit to all men, but only to their husbands. This is not a statement of male superiority but of differing roles God designed in marriage.
- b. Winsome Conduct – A wife’s winsome and beautiful conduct glorifies God and may win her husband to the Lord.
- c. Respectful Conduct – A wife is to show regard and appreciation for the God-given role of her husband and to esteem his leadership.
- d. Pure Conduct – This is conduct that is not manipulative or conniving, but pure and genuine in its motivation.
- e. Overflow of the Heart – Wives are instructed to give more attention to their inner person than their outward beauty. Submissiveness is not merely a list of rules or outward compliance—it’s a disposition of the heart.
- f. Gentle and Quiet Spirit – Commentator Peter Davids writes, *“‘Gentle’ in the Greek world was an amiable friendliness that contrasted with roughness, bad temper or brusqueness. In biblical perspective the term indicates a person who does not attack back, for he or she waits on God to judge in the end; knowing God is just, the person can suffer evil without bitterness and vengeance.”* He writes that the term ‘quiet’ conveys a *“sense of being calm, peaceful, and tranquil as opposed to restless, rebellious, disturbed, or insubordinate...”*
- g. Based on Hope In God – A godly woman submits because her ultimate hope is not in her husband but in God. She knows that God is judge and that he will reward her.

2. Dr. Wayne Grudem writes: “Submission is an inner quality of gentleness that affirms the leadership of the husband.” To affirm your husband’s leadership is saying with your words and your behavior, “I support you. I believe you’re called by God to play this role. I am committed to making your plan a success. I’m here to be your helper.”

- a. Wives, you will never nag, criticize or nitpick your husband into being a godly leader. But your faith and encouragement and support will transform him.
- b. Nothing stirs a man’s heart to aspire to be a godly husband like the affirmation of his wife.

4. The High Calling of a Husband:

"A Woman's Question" by Lena Lathrop

Do you know you have asked for the costliest thing
Ever made by the Hand above?
A woman's heart, and a woman's life—
And a woman's wonderful love.

Do you know you have asked for this priceless thing
As a child might ask for a toy?
Demanding what others have died to win,
With the reckless dash of a boy.

You have written my lesson of duty out,
Manlike, you have questioned me.
Now stand at the bars of my woman's soul
Until I shall question thee.

You require your mutton shall always be hot,
Your socks and your shirt be whole;
I require your heart be true as God's stars
And as pure as His heaven your soul.

You require a cook for your mutton and beef,
I require a far greater thing;
A seamstress you're wanting for socks and shirts –
I look for a man and a king.

A king for the beautiful realm called Home,
And a man that His Maker, God,
Shall look upon as He did on the first
And say: "It is very good."

I am fair and young, but the rose may fade
From this soft young cheek one day;
Will you love me then 'mid the falling leaves,
As you did 'mong the blossoms of May?

Is your heart an ocean so strong and true,
I may launch my all on its tide?
A loving woman finds heaven or hell
On the day she is made a bride.

If you cannot be this, a laundress and cook
You can hire and little to pay;
But a woman's heart and a woman's life
Are not to be won that way.

1. 1 Peter 3: 1 states, "... wives, be submissive to your husbands ..." What aspect of Josh's seven characteristics of submission was most helpful?
2. Wives, what aspects of submission are difficult for you? What is one area of submission in which you can begin to pursue God's grace for growth and change?
3. Josh shared, "Nothing stirs a man's heart to aspire to be a godly husband like the affirmation of his wife." Wives, how can you grow in affirming your husband's leadership? How can you make leading a joy for him?
4. Husbands, why is understanding your wife so important to God and to your wife? What is keeping you from living with your wife in an understanding way – laziness, pride, wrong view of leadership, an assumption you are understood? What one area is the Lord calling you to pursue repentance and change?
5. Husbands, how can you grow in living with your wife in an understanding way? What practical steps can you take to be a good student of your wife?
6. Husbands, do you honor your wife in your words, your actions, in public and private and in front of our kids? How would your wife evaluate you in this area? Take time to ask her, to listen and to repent, as necessary.