

Cornerstone Church

February 5, 2017

Sermon Series: Practicing Our Readiness Drills for Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and 2nd Peter

Today's Sermon: Keeping Our Conduct Honorable in the World, God's Secrets to a God-honoring Marriage

Today's Passage: 1 Peter 3:1-6

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening. (ESV)

Introduction:

Main Point: In the closest of all human relationships, that of husband and wife, it is paramount that a believing wife do everything she can to keep her conduct honorable in front of her non-believing husband so that she might see him come to saving faith himself.

Review

1 Peter 2:12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. (ESV)

- ✓ All wives are to graciously submit to their husbands (**Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands**) as a lifestyle of obedience to Christ but this submission may have an even greater impact for good on non-believing

husbands (**so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word.**) Women should submit in the following ways:

1. **Respectful conduct.** The gracious deportment of a godly woman has a powerful impact on the peace of a home. **by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.**
 - A. In that culture it was expected that wives be loyal to the chosen religion of their husbands. Any resistance to this would be seen as rebelliousness. Christian women could no longer be supportive of both Christianity and a pagan religion.
 - B. To compensate for that apparent act of rebellion, Peter suggests (actually commands) that wives be respectful towards their husband in every other way possible that is not a violation of God's laws.

when they see = as they watch, observe, witness

your respectful conduct = means no nagging, no disrespectful statements, no talking behind his back, no comparing him to other men, but in a positive sense, be affectionate, encouraging, complimentary, admiring, praising in private and public.

Your pure conduct = means no hidden motives, no manipulation, no hidden agendas, no wishing for a different husband which might be evident through flirting, but instead, be truthful (admit you can't obey and worship a false god but want to please him in every other way), be honest, be singular in your love.

2. **In Physical Appearance.** Wives should dress in a way that pleases God first and husbands second - **Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear.**
 - a. In that era, women would display their wealth and status through their hairstyle, jewelry and expensive clothing. This may not always be pleasing to her

husband since it was a typical way of advertising that she was looking.

- b. Today, status is displayed by the kind of car one drives, the kind of house she parks it in and the kind of vacations she talks about to her friends.
 - c. Even though this ostentatiousness is to be discouraged among godly wives today (still good advice even though it is not a way to say someone is available today), more importantly, any behavior, either in immodest dress, or flirtatious activity, is to be even more discouraged so as to show a husband he is #1 in her life.
 - d. However, if a non-believing husband today asks a believing wife to drive a Lexus, wear a mink coat, fly to Paris, and host parties in a multi-million dollar home, she should obey his wishes. Keep this admonition in context. This is about honoring your husband.
3. **In Spiritual Beauty.** Christian wives should exhibit their confidence in Christ through having a demeanor that is exceptionally gracious. **but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.**
4. **By Following the Example of Godly Women of Faith in Scripture.** There is one outstanding example of fearless faith displayed by a woman of faith, Abraham's Sarah. **For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.**

1. This submission is everything we said it was and wasn't in our study of Ephesians 5.
2. Do not fear the path your husband is taking you on or the future. God is in it. He will take care of you. The responsibilities are on your husband not you.
3. Next week we will address husbands so don't think this is one-sided!

Application