

***How are spouses  
supposed to treat  
each other?***



**1 Peter 3:1-7**

# Introduction

- Being a Christian is tough when partner is not.
- Biggest concern is being a right kind of example
- Part of the ongoing section of Living Godly lives in a pagan society, **1 Peter 2:11-4:19**—bulk of the letter!
- Fitzgerald's painting of 1 Century culture that Peter's readers lived in.

# Introduction

- His readers, You (**2:9**), dear friends (**2:11**), slaves (**2:18**), wives (**3:1**), husbands (**3:7**), finally, all of you (**3:8**).
- Principles learned from this paragraph can touch 3 distinct pairings of relationships

# With Mutual Submission

- Back to verse **2:18**—in the same way—in reverent fear of God.
- In Verse **3:6** Sarah is upheld as an example of doing what is right and submission (culture)
- Submission is rooted in humility.
- It is the opposite of domineering, power, control and pride.
- Goal=they may be won over

# With Becoming Behavior

- Without words, by the behavior of their wives.
- Without nagging, carping, harassing.
- Anastrophe—conduct, behavior, manner of life
- **1 Peter 3:15, 16** (manner of life)=Entire missiological method and concern of Peter!

# With Beautiful Inner self

- Literally, “the hidden man of the heart.”
- Sentence is awkward grammatically. Author’s point is clear: “external ornamentation is contrasted with the hidden interior beauty of an authentic Christian spirit, which expresses itself in treasured virtues.” [Senior, p. 82].

# With Beautiful Inner self

- The quality of the Christian's inner or hidden self of the heart
- The virtue of gentleness
- used to describe Jesus' own spirit (**Matt. 11:29**).
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- This is great worth in God's sight!

# With Hope in God

- In contrast with putting hope in fleeting human approval because of outward adornment!
- “Hope-someone-likes-me” is replaced with hope in God’s approval because we know what is great worth in God’s sight!
- This gets to the heart of our self-concept.
- What do we base our approval on?



# With Consideration

- **Husbands are to be considerate (in the same way!) with their wives.**
- **Assumption here is Christian husbands. Pagan husbands would not be present when the letter was read, most likely.**

# **With Respect as Joint-heirs**

- **Weaker partner-reference to physical strength.**
- **Because of this, treat with respect**
- **Domestic violence and abuse today**
- **I have had my worldview changed...as time has gone on the last 61 years of my life, American culture in general has not matured and gotten better.**

# **With Respect as Joint-heirs**

- **Heirs together of the gracious gift of life—both in oneness, and in parenting!**
- **Notice the “so-that”—so that nothing will hinder your prayers.**
- **How husbands and wives treat each other have a direct correlation and effect on their prayer life! (Took me years to see this!).**

# Conclusion

- 1. Live so as to win over people with your behavior.**
- 2. Live so that purity and reverence shines for all to see.**
- 3. Live with an unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit.**
- 4. Hope in God is where we place our value.**

# Conclusion

**5. Husbands especially be considerate of your wives.**

**6. Mutual respect as heirs of the gracious gift of life**

**7. This is that prayer life will not be hindered.**