

# 1 Peter - Week 12

## Wedlock or Deadlock (Wives)

1 Peter 3:1 Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe 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. 3 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. 5 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 her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. 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. 8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. 11 He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

- Today, what we need to overcome is a spiritual FOUNDATION for our homes that will work forever.
- Practicing Biblical truth about MARRIAGE is enough to save it and make it what God desires.
- In many homes, if we were to be honest, people outside the home get our very best and our families usually get LEFTOVERS.

In the passage, Peter devotes more time dealing with wives. Why?

- The truth is this: Christian wives were experiencing a whole new situation in life. Up to this point they were not considered EQUALS or given respect for the roles God has given them.
- So Peter devoted more time to them because they needed a new GUIDANCE on how to act, and how to fulfill their roles.

Peter's Charge:

The Call to IMITATE Jesus

- Just as Jesus was SUBMISSIVE and obedient to the will of God, so Christian wives and husbands are called to follow the same example.
- Much of what we learn in life comes by way of IMITATION.

- For husbands, if we imitate Christ we will be able to blend STRENGTH with tenderness.

### Roles of the Wife

- Twice in this text Peter calls the wife to be SUBMISSIVE.
- For women it means “I am TRUSTING God will use my husband to bring about my very best.” It’s a military term meaning to place UNDER rank.
- God has a purpose for everything. A woman is to come under in order to LIFT UP.
- So wives, what is your husband’s greatest need? PRAISE  
When you praise me, I am the SOLUTION. When you don’t, I am the PROBLEM.
- You are called to be a HELP-MEET.
- You are called to come along side as a COMFORTER.

Submission does not mean any of this:

- It does not mean you’re STUPID.
- It does not mean you don’t have an OPINION. God surely is not calling you to be a DOOR MAT. Again, it is a sign of FAITH and trust in the role God has given you.
- You are called to love your husbands.  
The command is that you must HONOR and respect your husband.  
The roles of the wife are not CONDITIONAL on a husband’s behavior.
- Don’t substitute secret MANIPULATION for a quiet spirit.
- Submission to God is a mark of SECURITY and faith.
- You are not RESPONSIBLE for your husband’s life.

### Understand Your Calling

- You’re a COMFORTER
- You’re a COMPLETER
- You’re a COMPANION

Fulfilling your roles will have a POSITIVE effect on your children.

Remember, you’re a person of DESTINY.

The hard things will further prepare you to carry out the plans God has for you both. The difficult people are there to teach you about yourself and God uses them to ultimately stretch your FAITH.