

Hey guys, how's it going? This is Jacqueline the unimportant homemaker and today let's talk about fear.

We have learned that a subjected wife is used by God as a powerful instrument of obedience and trust and respect that the unbelieving husband witnesses. We want our husbands to love and trust and submit to Christ and we have dedicated ourselves and our marriage to do as God desires.

The text says: 2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.

The word chaste appears before the word conversation, or behavior, and chaste, according to the concordance, means clean, innocent, modest, perfect. The word was also used in Titus 2 for the young wife and mother to be chaste and also we remember Apostle Paul saying in 2 Corinthians 11: that he wanted to present the believers as a chaste virgin to Christ and that he was afraid that they had, like Eve, fallen prey to satanic lies. One such satanic lie is the off-repeated mantra that my husband doesn't want a woman who is quiet, he respects that I speak my mind and he supports me in that. That's a lie, one cooked up by Satan and agreed to by Eve, I mean, you and you've convinced your Adam to support it, which he does because of his own fallenness. It's a lie designed to make you not be quiet, which is exactly what God wants you to do.

So clean, innocent, modest behavior is what the husband should see on you. Not pretending, not using deceptive and manipulative behavior, getting even with him, making avenging moves in response to the sinful behavior. and you don't put it on when you see him being disobedient, it's how you are to be for real, as a habit, every day. Her husband's sinful behavior does not invalidate her lifestyle. She has to live consistent with quiet reverence for God.

Because remember, he is watching and observing you and it's the means by which he might be won. So you see how the satanic lie might deceive you into thinking you can and should say your piece to your husband and not keep watch over your behavior. Her husband's sinful behavior does not deflect her from her manner of living consistent with quiet reverence for God. Just because he is disobedient doesn't mean she ought to follow him in disobeying God.

But as we keep reading, there's a word that gave me pause because I considered it a "problem" verse. You know, the ones that make us so uncomfortable that our first reaction is to find a way to twist the meaning so it seems to say something completely different. This is a natural tendency because sin has corrupted every aspect of what it means to be human. So, when we come across a Scripture that challenges an area of

our life that's been distorted or misaligned by sin, our immediate response is often to question the passage itself, rather than questioning our own reasoning, emotions, or intuitions.

This word fear conjures up a lot of different emotions. Our childhood memories seem to be the main source of fear as our parents were not the millennials we see today who coddle their children and who have lots of disposable income. But one thing I've noticed as I read the bible is that it seems like God is trying to teach us what words mean and how we are to think and act now after salvation.

For instance, in Romans 13, we are taught what the government is really for and why it's important to give honor where honor is due. This was surprising to me because I already had thoughts about the government established by my culture and it never occurred to me to think and respond differently to that standard. Well, I see the word fear and it made me get real with myself.

What do I think about fear? Well, I thought fear was the act of being scared, like showing the fear in my eyes and in my behavior, ya know, the dread in your stomach and the flinching and the shame-invoking & belittle thoughts that I am stupid and I deserve punishment. I admit, it was a bit tantalizing to my flesh, carnal woman that I was. I like the idea of being afraid of my man. Even though he wasn't the abusive type, I pretended that he was. If he raised his voice, my eyes got all big and full of tears and I began shaking in fear, even though 3 seconds before that, I had my chest puffed out and I was screaming at him. I liked playing this game because it gave me instant gratification as I saw his reaction to my antics. He instantly responded by lowering his tone and trying to reassure me that he wasn't going to move against me in violence and I felt like I had the upper hand once again. I don't admit this proudly, I am deeply ashamed of the manipulation I performed and the humiliation he felt as he looked at his wife who was afraid of his strength that he has never used against her. I made him feel like scum all because I was playing a role.

Anywho, let's define the word fear according to the bible. In the concordance, it does mean alarm or fright. Okay so let's see what that looks like in scripture. We know our verse, chaste conversation coupled with fear. Let's look at a few more verses that use that exact word fear.

1 John 4:18 says there is no fear in love and perfect love casts out fear (There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love) Okay this makes me think that while I was correct to fear my husband's strength and power, I didn't need to respond with a fearful manner, just a

cautious respect. And the real fear I needed to remember is the honor I am to show because I am subordinate.

1 Peter 1:17 says pass the time of your sojourning here in fear (And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear). So God is watching and judging every man's work, not judging as in punishment but He requires us to be holy because He is holy and we were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ. This living is to be done with respectful fear, not shaking that God will get us if we get out of line.

1 Peter 3: 15 also says "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear". Ok so this section reminds us that the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers, who will harm us if we are followers of that which is good? And even if we suffer for righteousness' sake we can be happy and not afraid of our husbands' terror. Why? Because we hope in God and we fear God and we trust God.

Last one, in Matthew 14:26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. Their fear was based on a wrong interpretation of what they saw. Sounds like my fear-response. The wrong thing motivated my fear. But Jesus' response to their fear was to be cheerful and not afraid for it is He. Let us respond as Peter did and ask God to bid us to come to Him instead of running from this great responsibility towards our husband.

As a final word of encouragement I am reminded of Isaiah 8 where the prophet Isaiah was regarded by unbeliever Israel as a servant of the enemy because he kept telling them to trust and depend upon God alone and not rely on foreign nations. And the Lord encouraged him to speak with power a message that would naturally distance the people from himself, and was telling him not to fear what they fear because the Holy God is his fear and dread and sanctuary. He's not like the ones he is ministering to. He has to do the will of God regardless if anyone listens. As a born again wife, you belong to God, do not fear what unbelieving wives fear, don't look at their life and wish you had the freedom they have. The fear and dread of God will fall upon them and it will not be a sanctuary to them.

Put your trust in God. behave innocently, modestly in fear and respect in your marriage towards the husband that you love. You may walk alone, you may be misunderstood by your family or your peers but you will be obeying God and that is what we live for.

Pleasing our Father that we may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

That's it for today guys, thank you for joining me, I'll see you at the next study!