

READY Your husband is always watching you | 1 Peter 3 wife

Here's a brief introduction to the book of 1st Peter. I use a study bible and it included an introduction that I will paraphrase in order to set us in the right direction.

This epistle was written by the Apostle Peter to help persecuted believers live victoriously in the midst of extreme hostility. Social justice was not what the church needed, they needed to know their identity in Christ and what it meant to know Him, and be reminded that they will face injustice and hatred and persecution simply because of the hostility of the evil world system around them against the Savior. We cannot change the culture but we can evangelize them. Peter taught that the effort of the evil one was to find Christians whose lives were not consistent with the teachings of the Word of God as a means to show that the church, and thereby Christ, was an ineffective system. So Peter is teaching the tools the christian needs to evangelize the hostile world around them by living obedient, God-exalting lives even in the midst of suffering. Some of the teachings in the 1st book of Peter include instruction for how to live before unbelievers in the areas of government as well as in the family unit. Within this section, we have the 1 Peter 3 woman.

So this section was written to a woman whose husband is not a believer. My husband is a believer but I have found this section to be just as important in this type of marriage as it will result in a wife living life in correct order within marriage with fear and respect.

Let's look at the text we will explore today.

Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.

The first word is likewise, which means we need to look back at what was just said. In my bible, the section before chapter 3 is entitled Christ our example. So this means the bible gives us the example in Christ before instructing us on what it will look like in our own lives. So let's read that example.

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:**23** Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:**24** Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.**25** For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

We see Christ's example of how He endured the hostility towards Himself. We ourselves being called for this same purpose, the reality that we may suffer unfair treatment, but we are left with

Christ's example of perfect patience in suffering. He sinned not, he never did outbursts of vicious threats although He experienced the reviling harsh words. He didn't use guile, meaning He didn't lie or scheme to get out of his suffering or to manipulate his aggressors into relenting. He suffered their harshness but gave none back in return but kept trusting Himself to God the Father. This means He trusted the Father's plans for Him, the methods He allowed, the suffering that was His to endure in complete confidence. He wasn't embarrassed or ashamed but He endured it, silently, because He trusted God. The text goes on to say that Christ did all of this and bore in his own body our sins that we should live unto righteousness, the power to walk in new life, we having been healed from the deadly sin that condemned us unto death and separation from God. We used to go astray but now we have repentant faith that turned us towards the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls.

Peter just let us know all that was accomplished by Christ, who we are in Christ and how we can live in His example as wives because we are the first on the list in chapter 3.

In this same way, wives are to be submissive. Christ was fully submissive to the sovereignty of God. God ordained His sufferings, He didn't build a bubble around Christ to shield him from sadness or unkindness just as He will not encapsulate us within our marriage. We might get our feelings hurt, we might have harsh words flung at us, we might have a husband who withholds affections or inflicts emotional drain but God ordained our every step, ours and our husbands, for His own purposes. Like Christ, we can submit to this in full confidence that we won't be given more than we are able to bear.

I will say here that Christ was struck, He was whipped, He was spit upon and yet He still trusted in God's purpose for those things. I am not saying with any type of authority that God wants this suffering for you but I am saying that if you are not experiencing any of those terrible realities, then your submission should be much easier to bear.

Have you fully accepted whatever trials and tests your marriage comes with complete confidence that the Father knows, approves, ordains those struggles and that He wants them there to strengthen you for a greater capacity of glorifying Him in the midst of struggles? Have you told the Lord you will drink the cup set before you and not ask for relief or escape, preferring instead to suffer as Christ has, silently and confidently before the Father? Or are you holding the line of resistance towards a difficult marriage and rebellion against the command of Scripture? Because I did. I held onto a belief that things should go well for me because I am a believer and didn't He say that all things work together for good for those who are called? How can this meanness or unloving I experience be for my good, it just makes me a hard woman full of bitterness and anger. Look at me, acting like I know best and can decide if something is really for my good. I wasn't willing to even try it his way before I started complaining about how wrong this all sounded. Christ had a willingness to do things God's way and He wanted me to do the same.

Also, imagine my surprise when it finally dawned on me that obedience was different than subjection. I was already learning to obey my husband but I had not subjected myself. Meaning,

I could do what he asked but I always considered that I was ultimately free to exercise that or not and that my wants/desires/opinions were to always be expressed to him and respected by him or we would have some problems. But subjection is more like "I waive my rights, I won't fight for my way, I will go along with your plans". The Strong's definition says "to obey, subdue, be under obedience, be put in subjection under". So I had to, in a sense, put myself under subjection and live in that state of subjection. Not jump in and out whenever it felt appropriate but to live under it, happily. It's kind of a state of mind but more so just a simple reality. One that doesn't change because my husband made me mad and is no longer worthy of my submission.

Because let's be real here, God told us to be in subjection because He knows, just like we know, that we won't submit to nobody we don't want to submit to. We will rebel even if it's just in our own hearts and minds, any authority demanded of us. We love autonomy and prize it above most everything in life. So the fact that God commands us to submit and subject ourselves makes perfect to me. The only person I can blame is myself. It's up to me to bring my body under control and demand it do the will of God. It's not my husband's fault I won't submit, it's mine.

Now, using Christ's example of suffering under the reviling, it looked a bit like this in my case. I came to my senses after snapping and acting a fool and I decided to shut my mouth. Well that left space for my husband to say his piece. Normally I don't like to give him that space but I wanted to see if I could put into practice what I've been learning. So he started accusing and yelling and I decided that instead of acting all dramatic, uttering my threats and whatnot, like I usually did, I would lower my head and take my husband's displeasure with me like a big girl. I also was only half listening to his complaints because I was busy telling myself to stop acting so hurt, stop letting my feeling of humiliation overinflate. I literally just cut up with him for an hour and now all of a sudden I can't take him saying a single thing to me? Where was all of this bashfulness when I was flinging accusations and coarse words? You see, I knew exactly how my flesh was going to misbehave when I attempted to make it submit to my mind's desire to do the will of God. Apostle Paul talked about how "with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin". That war was present as I submitted myself to my husband. My mind was steadfast but my flesh was going berserk but I held the line. I didn't overreact. I didn't make my excuses, I just stood there and listened to his admonishments and then I said thank you for letting me know. WE were both absolutely stunned at what I just accomplished. I know this isn't exactly what Christ experienced but it sure felt like the end of the world for me. But I did it. I patiently endured the harsh words and resentment and uttered no threats and did not revile in return but I trusted myself to Him who judges righteously. Over time, my flesh got weaker and I trusted more and more in God's purposes. The submission was actually the very tool used to weaken and finally kill my flesh in the regard that I shouldn't allow any hurtful words or accusations be dealt to me.

What about you? Is your submission to your husband without prerequisites but instead you live fully confident in God who commands it? Or are you waiting until your husband proves he's worthy of your submission? Let me know down below in the comment section.

That's it for today guys, thank you for joining me, I'll see you next time.