



Epistle of 1 Peter

1 Peter 3:5-7 Sarah's Example, Husband's Respect for Wives

- *1 Peter 3:5 – “For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,”*
 - *For in what manner in former times and what kind of adornment was this?*
 - *Verse 4 - hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit,*
 - *holy women who trusted in God*
 - Their *trust* was an active process whereas they *were adorned* was imperfect tense, and this continued to set them apart.
 - What was so *holy* about them?
 - Wuest – ‘The phrase "holy women," should not be interpreted as referring to some particular and unique class of Old Testament individual with a special halo about her head. These women concerning whom the apostle is speaking were just ordinary sinners saved by grace. The word "holy" is the translation of a Greek word which means literally, "**set-apart ones.**“



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- Here are some examples:
 - » *1 Tim 5:10 -well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.*
 - » *Titus 2: 3-5 - the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, or be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.*
- How many such women were there; can you think of others?
- *being submissive (in subjection) to their own husbands*
- Again, this *submission (subjection)* is in the passive tense
- But in the following verses the verb tense is present active and imperative, why the differences?
 - *Eph 5:22 – Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*
 - *Col 3:18 - Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*
- Whatever,
 - *Prov 31:10,11 - Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.*



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– *Prov 31:30 - Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.*

• 1 Peter 3:6 – “as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.”

- Now, the so often cited example of submission!
 - Wuest – ‘The word "obeyed" is in the constative aorist in Greek which speaks of an action going on over a long period of time, looking at it in one single panoramic view.’
- Dear wives, do you consider yourselves *daughters of Sarah* (that you are or became) and *are you doing good and not afraid of any terror?*
 - What is *doing good?*
 - *1 Peter 2:15 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—*
 - Alford suggests an interpretation of this difficult expression; "As long as



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the believing wives are doing good, they need not be afraid with any sudden terror of the account which their unbelieving husbands may exact from them. “

- Was this directed to only unsaved husbands, what about believing husbands?
- Let's reflect on trials that Peter has and will so frequently mentioned.
 - » *1 Peter 2:20 - For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? **But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.***
 - » *2 Cor 4:16 - Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our **outward man is perishing**, yet the **inward man is being renewed day by day.***
- Hey husbands, how recently has your wife called you *lord*?
 - Wuest – ‘The Greek word translated "*lord*" is *kurios*, a word used in various ways.’
 - ‘Sarah used it as a wifely courtesy to her husband, and as a recognition of his authority over her.’
 - McCalley – ‘Sarah is introduced as an example because she called Abraham lord, a term indicating leadership and headship.’
 - *Gen 18:12 - Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, **my lord being old also?**”*



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- *Rom 9:7-9 - nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, “In Isaac your seed shall be called.” That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. For this is the word of promise: “At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son.”*

•1 Peter 3:7 – “Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”

- Constable – ‘Why did Peter write more about the conduct of women (vv. 1-6) than of men (v. 7)? He evidently did so because his concern was for Christian wives who were married to pagan husbands.’
- But here, isn't the text is devoted to believing husbands?
- *Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding,*



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- *understanding* here is *gnosis* or knowledge
- Thayer - **moral wisdom**, such as is seen in **right living**, and in contact with others: wisely.
- *giving honor (precious) to the wife, as to the weaker vessel*,
 - How should we interpret that *our wives* are the *weaker vessel*?
 - Is this spiritual, physical, emotional or sickly *weakness*.
 - And we are all *vessels*.
 - » 2 Cor 4:7 - *But we have this treasure **in earthen vessels**, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*
 - » 1 Thess 4:4 - *that each of you should know how to possess **his own vessel** in sanctification and honor;*
 - Constable – ‘Obviously, in many marriages the wife is the stronger person emotionally, mentally, spiritually, morally, socially, and or physically. Nevertheless physically the wife is usually weaker than her husband.’
- Whatever, it’s *as being heirs together of the grace of life*,
 - **This is so incredibly important; man and wife are made one in Christ Jesus!**
 - Eph 5:25-27 - *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the*



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church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Rom 8:17 - and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

- Notice the outcome, *that your prayers may not be hindered.*
 - Why is *be not hindered* in the passive tense?
 - Perhaps it relates to our falling short?
 - » *Eph 4:30 - And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*